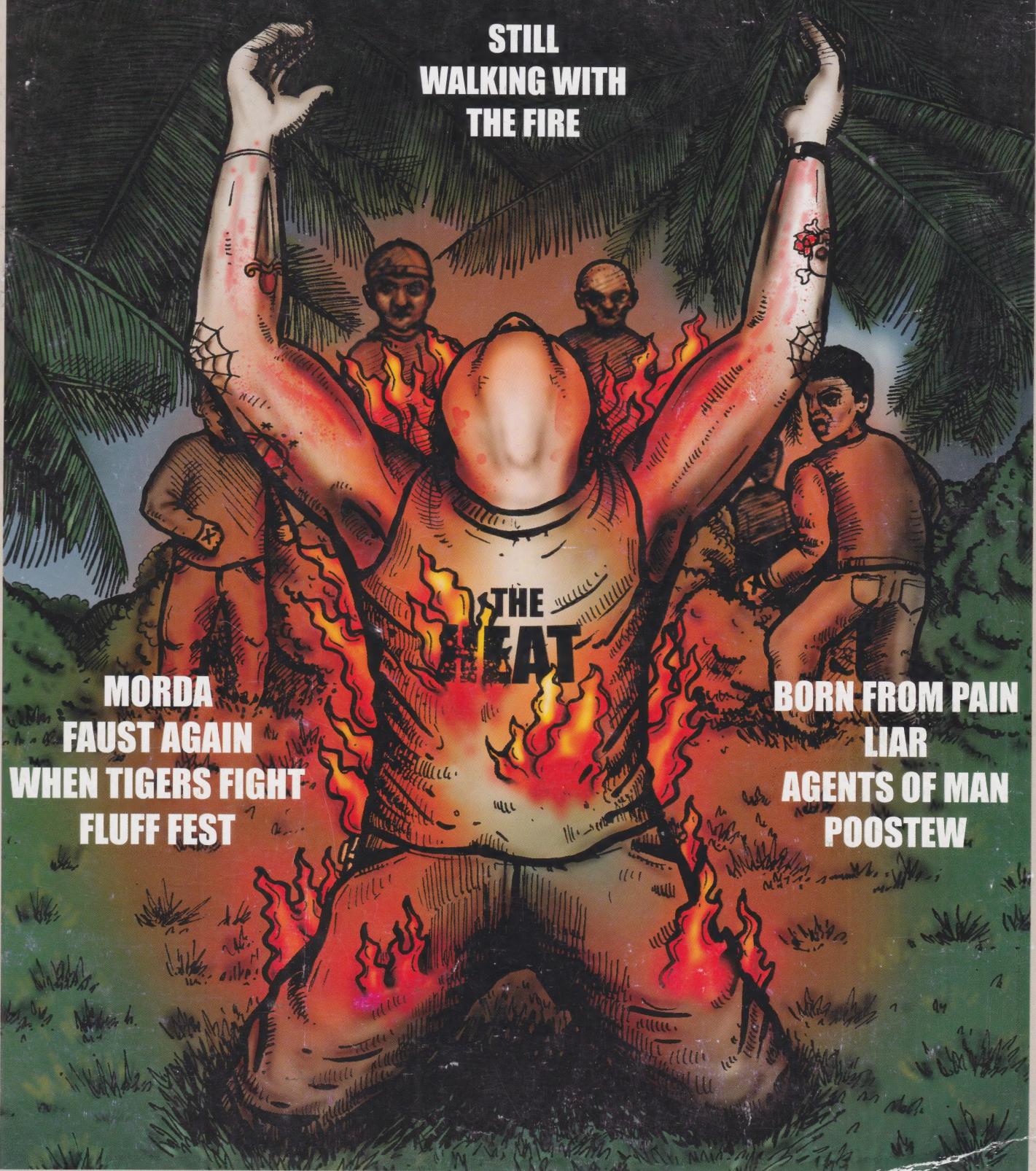


# THE HEAT

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SPRING 2006

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**THE HEAT CREW**

Dear friend,  
you got the first issue of The Heat in your hands and I could now rant forever about  
the Heat burning in each of us, which might be true, but I think we went for that title  
because it was short and catchy and we liked it, so that's why it's called like that.

Hardcore gave me a place where I feel at home and that, at least in its ideal form, it's  
not a place where you have to compete against each other and where everyone who's  
doing something like you is your enemy. So for me doing a zine is my way to support  
bands that I'm interested in, people that I think have something to say or are doing  
something that should be supported. That's why we put the interview with Tomas from  
Fluff Fest, that I conducted last year for Silentstagnation in the zine, because I think it's  
one of those interviews that I'll also read in a few years with joy and it doesn't lose its  
meaning.

Even though this is yet another fanzine for someone who just got a hold of this copy, for  
Adam and me it's something special. Special because, well... let me tell you the story of  
the zine: I was having the idea of doing a paper fanzine in mind for quite some time,  
but somehow I never got around starting it. So when Adam and me met again at the  
Fluff Fest in 2005, well we were doing the obvious chit chat, when you haven't seen  
each other for a while and so I told him about my idea and he immediately was into  
it. He was already making plans how we could manage to do it and what we would  
put into it, because he and me we can't hang out with one another because he lives in  
Poland and I'm living in Germany, so in this way it was something new and exciting  
for us, but also because Adam hadn't done a fanzine in English and I had never done a  
paper fanzine and I learned a lot about that.

I can tell you another thing, never, and I really mean never, try to write your diploma  
thesis while you're doing a zine because at some point you'll get mad. I didn't get mad  
because Adam pushed this zine so hard, he was putting so much effort in it, luckily he  
took care of the layout because otherwise this would not have come out in April but  
sometime in summer. So thanks go out to him for saving my sanity and for keeping our  
deadline.

As usual I'm behind my schedule while I'm writing this, the layout is basically finished  
and there's just a few things to add like this Editorial. So I'm psyched to hold this zine  
in my hands really soon...

Just let us know what you think, send us suggestions, hatemail, whatever. We feel that  
hardcore apart from the music and the ideas, is about communicating, so just feel free to  
drop your two cents.

Thanks for your support.  
LB & Adam.

**HEAT**



# born from pain

**Hi! First of all I would like to ask You about some facts from band history... Give us those which was the most important (like when did you start the band, line-up, your releases)**

Hey there, well the band was formed in 1997 by Rob and Che so it's been around for 8 years now and had various line up changes. The current line up is Che – Vocals, Rob – Bass, Stefan – Guitar, Roel – Drums and I (Karl) also play guitar. We've released a MCD – "Immortality", a split CD with Redline, 3 albums "Reclaiming The Crown" and "Sands Of Time" and our latest album which is titled "In Love With The End" that was released on Metal Blade Records in April 2005. We're a band that loves to tour and we've toured with the likes of Six Feet Under, Cold As Life, Madball, Hatebreed, Biohazard, Napalm Death, Agnostic Front, Terror, The Promise etc as well as doing lots of headlining tours and shows and festival appearances. I guess that's a brief band history to give people some background information.

**I was always curious about the origin of band name... Born From Pain... who did invent the name? And does it have any meaning or is just a fucking great name for a hardcore band?**

Well, the band name is actually taken from an Earth Crisis song that is on the album "Destroy The Machines" and I think it was Rob that found it. There wasn't any real meaning behind the band name being chosen, only that it fit with some of the times people who formed the band were going through and that it is a great name and adheres to the musical style of the band very well, so it was a perfect match for the band.

**I think that You haven't had big line-up changes. Do you think that it can be one of the keys to your success of becoming as good band as BFP is now?**

Well, there have been a few line up changes and since I have been in the band for the past 4 years there have been 3 different drummers, but in general there hasn't been too much going on really in that way. I definitely think having a steady line up is a key factor for most

bands success and longevity and it has definitely helped us with being a stable band and knowing how everybody else works and is. It is never ever productive for any band to have a continually rotating line up of members and when that happens it is only gonna prove to be a hindrance to what you want to achieve.

**Now let's talk about your scene called MOC. What does this shortcut mean? (in polish word "moc" means power)**

Well, the MOC basically stands for Mijnstreek Oost Crew. Mijnstreek Oost is the local area in Limburg where there was a lot of coal mines and was where the local HC spawned and adopted the term MOC.

**I listen to BFP almost from the beginning (from MCD "Immortality" on Contrition). And on the first sight You have to see the progress which was made by BFP. Let me know what are the main causes of this progress.**

Well I'm glad that you see there is progress in what we have done, and to me progress is a very good thing for any band. I don't think there are too many reasons for progress because the basic blueprint of the band is exactly the same as when those first songs were written and that was to write hard, heavy and aggressive hardcore with some metallic influences. I think it's important for a band to grow and progress as such, otherwise they would just release the same album over and over again. It's not like we have 2 completely different sounding albums from the start to where we are now with In Love With The End, but there is a difference, and I can't really say what the main causes are. Of course there is the obvious one, that new types of music influence you on a daily basis,

so after 8 years that's always going to be a factor. I'd say that the progression is very natural too, but like I said, we haven't really changed our sound that much, I just think we've expanded our original blueprint a little more.

**Your last CD called "In Love With The End" was**

**released about half-year ago. How do You look at the CD today? Are there any things that you would like to change?**

I have actually been listening to the new album a lot recently and it still hits me as hard as when I first listened to it when we got the official release through the door. Whenever a new album is done I always listen to it like crazy once the recording has finished and then put it away for a while and don't listen to it for quite a while and usually you find things on there you would change or have done differently etc, but with this one I'm pretty happy at how everything is still, 6 months on. I think it's a great album that really details Born From Pain in what we are and who we are as people and with the music we write. The only thing I would change, or should I say add to the album is the song that was never on there which is a song called "World Murder" which only features on the Japanese version. That song is a fast song and has a more HC sound to it than some of the other songs on the album, and 6 months down the line I just think that song would add an extra touch to the album. It also has a hard ass breakdown in the middle and totally rocks. But other than adding that song, I'm extremely pleased and proud of In Love With The End.

**You have added lots of new stuff to your music with "In Love With The End" like melodic guitars, guitar solos and other stuff. Did you want to refresh your music a bit or maybe you wanted to try something else?**

Well, to be honest, the only addition to the album in what you mention is a couple of melodic touches to the guitars at times and that's not super often in all honesty. Don't get me wrong, the album is full of hooks, but they're all either super hard riffs or have a certain groove to them that just reels you in. Guitar solos have always been a part of the Born From Pain sound and can be found in force on Sands Of Time and reclaiming the Crown. I just think that they are as little more prominent on In Love With The End because Stefan did a great job of writing them. There are some

other things going on though that make it different from previous releases, which include some different vocal approaches that add a lot of feeling to some of the songs and the pure fact that some of the songs have some new ideas and influences in there expanding the Born From Pain sound. So, in a way, there has been some refreshing of the sound, but I don't really think it's refreshing, I think it's adding to it, because if you listen to the album, you can hear elements of both Sands Of Time and Reclaiming The Crown. The new parts just bring more to the music and make it more exciting.

**I have to say that I love the sound of the CD. This is one of the best sounds I have heard for last 1 year. Let me know was it hard to work with Tue Madsen? And how do you like what he did for You?**  
Well, first off, it is anything but hard to work with Tue. Tue is an awesome dude in his own right and very easy to get on with as a person and also as somebody that is helping us with our music. Technically, Tue is outstanding at his job and that goes to show with the devastating sound he helped capture on both the records he has worked with us on, being in Love With The End and Sands Of Time and it is obvious why there is a year waiting list for his services. As for whether I like what he did for us, I love it, the man is extremely talented and a pleasure to work with.

**I think that vocals are one of the best aspects of the CD! I read that Che voice is compared to Hatebreed singer. So let me know if he was inspired by Jamie or just do the way it should be done?**  
Well, it's kinda tough to answer this as I'm not Che, but I do agree that his voice does have a resemblance to Jamey's, but Che always takes that as a compliment as Jamey has a great voice. I'm sure Jamey is definitely one of Che's many inspirations vocally, but if you listen to In Love With The End, there are a whole bunch of different vocal ideas going on from both Che and Rob and there is no longer just one standard vocal approach, and I think that makes for a very interesting record and adds lots of layers to what you hear giving the voice and album a lot more character. I'm a big fan of both Che and Rob's vocals on In Love With The End as it just adds so many more textures and dimensions to the songs.

**And in the song entitled "Renewal" are two different vocals. Who is doing the 2<sup>nd</sup> one, and why didn't you decided to put more of these different vocals on other songs?**

That's right, there are 2 different vocalists on there. The other person doing the 2<sup>nd</sup> vocals is Jacob from Hatesphere who are from the area that we recorded the album in Denmark. They're good friends of ours and we're all fans of Jacob's voice so we thought it would

be great to have him on the album and that song was a great song to have back and forth vocals between Che and Jacob and I'm totally sick at how it turned out. I think on the next record there will be even more vocal textures from Che and Rob. In Love With The End already had some great stuff on and I think it is only gonna get better.

**How important are lyrics for BFP? And who writes them?**

Lyrics are extremely important to Born From Pain as its

much of an optimistic situation, which I find very sad as there are many wonderful people and places on this earth, so it can be a bit depressing to look at how we treat each other and the world we live in. As for the lyrics in general they all kind of feed off the album title In Love With The End. Of course they're not all about the same subject, but the general notion is about how we seem to pursue the end in whatever situation it might be, and that can be in your personal life, environmentally, politically, socially or whatever. It's like we often have a self-destruct button that we can't help but press, all be it in small steps at times, but the effect is very like much being in love and not being able to stop yourself from following that path. After all, when you're in love, you often don't think rationally and your heart dictates what goes on. Well, the same can apply to everything else in life, not necessarily meaning that your heart dictates something, only that you can't help but follow a certain road, even if you know the end result isn't going to be good, which is why we used the image of a nuclear explosion for the album cover, as that is the most effective way to show what could happen. We all know it would be terrible and devastating to everyone and the world, but let's face it, it's something that could happen. So the lyrics tend to follow this kind of path, although it's not all doom and gloom, as there are songs on there such as "Raging heart" which deal with seizing the day and not letting opportunities pass you by, so there are some positive messages in there too.

**You are in many reviews regarded as a Tuff Guy band...but when I listen to your music I don't think that you're just a Tuff Guy band. I think that you are linking different styles (mainly hard core & metal) and come up with the BFP style...do you agree with that?**

I would totally agree with that. I really don't consider Born From Pain as a tuff guy band at all and I think you're spot on. We're just a band that blends Hard core and Metal to put it at its simplest. We're a full on hard core band and that's the scene we came from, but we do have a Metallic edge to our sound.

**What are the comments you got for the record? Did you get any bad ones or just the good ones?**

Well, on the whole the criticism we received for In Love With The End was all extremely positive and that comes from our fans and from the media, but like any album out there, there are always those people that say bad things, and that is no different with us. There have been some people who just haven't understood the album and I have seen some pretty odd reviews likening us to some bands I definitely don't think we have any connection with musically, but then again, that's the way some people interpret stuff. But like I said, for the most part, hard core and Metal and



one of our outlets for expressing whatever is happening in our lives or in the world. It's a great way to say what you want. Well, Rob, who plays bass and does back up vocals writes all the lyrics and I love what he does. He has a great sense of being able to capture the mood of a song and to be able to put words down that people can relate to in the sense they were written or to be able to take some kind of personal meaning to them.

**I read that Che said about the lyrics "Humanity is not meant to survive, and that's something we don't or won't see". It's not rather optimistic sentence...Please tell us what are the lyrics in general?**

Well, it's not really too optimistic is it, but if you take a look around, the world and humanity isn't in too

our fans have really loved the album and that's what is important to us.

**What do you expect after the cooperation with Metal Blade Records? How is it for now? Was that 6 months rather successful cooperation?**

I think Metal Blade has been really great to work with. They're very enthusiastic about what we do and are 100% behind us in every way. I don't expect too much in some ways, because I'm a firm believer in making things happen for ourselves, and that means writing songs we love and touring like crazy to spread word of mouth. Metal Blade is a great label to be on because everybody knows who they are and so it gives us a greater opportunity to get our music heard and reach even more people than we would have done, but so far I think the first 6 months have certainly been very successful and we're definitely making tracks in the right direction for both of us.

**You're touring rather a lot. As far as I know you were in Japan and in the USA for some tour. Have you noticed difference between Europe, USA and Japan? And if yes what kind of differences you have noticed? And on which continent you like to play the most?**

Rather a lot is an understatement hahaha, we are always on the road in some shape or form, but that's just how we love it. Yeah, we managed to get to Japan and the States in early 2004 for 2 totally kick ass tours which were both extremely successful and also a lot of fun. As for a difference between Europe, Japan and USA, I think that there are differences, but they can be quite minor really. We have had amazing shows on all

continents and to be honest there have been definite differences at shows in each of those continents so I think it really just depends on the scene or the people there. As for where I like to play the most. Everywhere is my answer. It doesn't matter where I play; I always love it. Of course it's always nice to be able to go to new places and check out new shit, but I really don't have a favorite so to speak.

**You played in many European countries...name few best places to play for a band like BFP.**

Wow, that's also really tough, because we have had amazing shows all over Europe and so it's really hard to narrow it down, but on a personal level, I always really love playing in Poland because the kids go so crazy there. Other than that, I love playing in Germany too as well as places like Greece and the UK. Japan is also really killer too, but yeah, very tough, we have had amazing shows all over the place. I could give you a list, but it would be a mile long haha.

**Do You like playing live shows or do You think it's necessarily to play them?**

Totally love it dude. I do think if you want to be successful then you do have to tour an awful lot, but there are many people that just love playing at home or in a rehearsal space just for the love of playing. Me, I love to tour, I live for touring and playing shows, for meeting new people, seeing new places and really getting out there on the road. I'm not really somebody that could just write music and sit still if you know what I mean. I have to play shows. The energy you feel from playing to kids killing each other or singing along to your music is the best feeling and buzz you

will ever get.

**Name few bands, whose recent records you were listening or liked a lot.**

OK, here is some shit I've been checking out and listening to a lot lately. Beware, this could be long hahaha

Crowbar – Lifesblood for The Downtrodden

Zero Mentality – In Fear Of Forever

God Forbid – IV: Constitution Of Treason

Pantera – A Vulgar Display Of Power

The Setup – The Pretense Of Normality

AC/DC – Back in Black

Depeche Mode – Violater

DMX – ...And Then There was X

Trivium – Ascendancy

Metallica – Ride The Lightning

Agents Of Man – Count Your Blessings

Down – Nola

Chimaira – Chimaira

Hatesphere – The Sickness Within

Henry Rollins – Spoken Word

Powerwolf – Return In Bloodred

Machine Head – Through The Ashes Of Empires

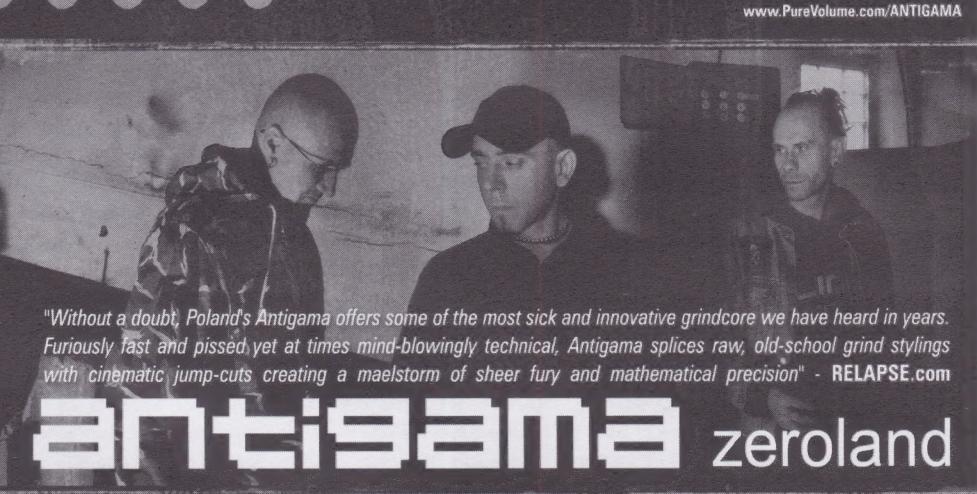
Sense Field – S/T

So yeah, just a short list there haha.

**Last comments...**

Thanks a lot for the interview, and people should check out [www.bornfrompain.com](http://www.bornfrompain.com) as well as the new album In Love With The End. Catch us on tour all the time haha. Thanks and take care.

## IN LOVE WITH THE END



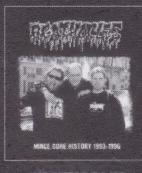
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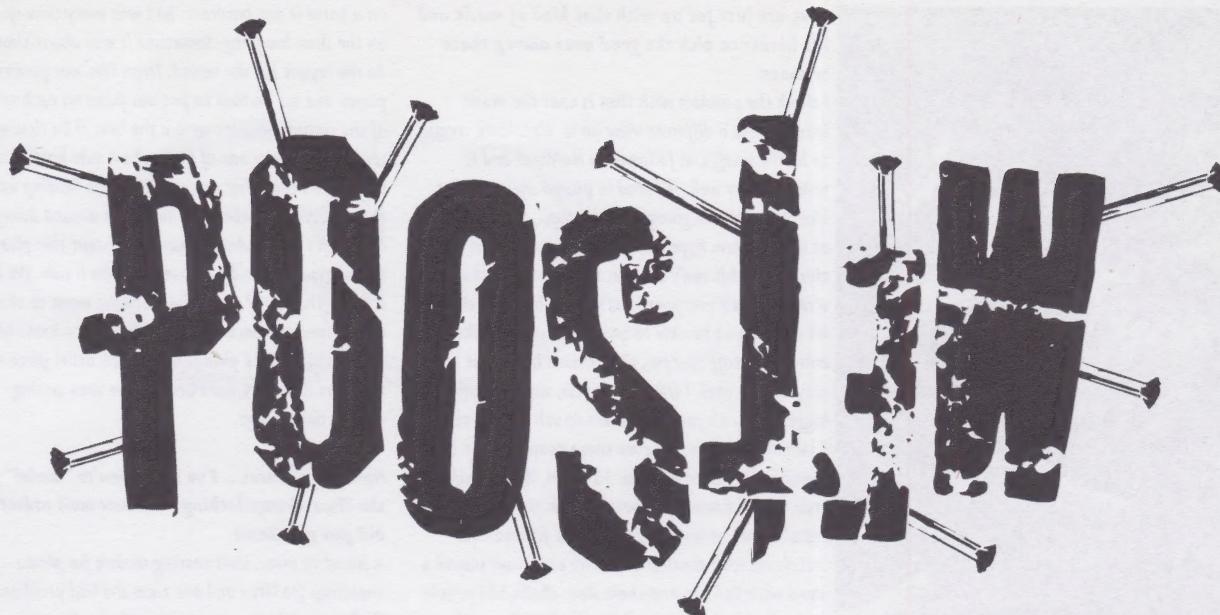


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**Hey Chris! At first some general questions about the band as introduction. So tell us a little bit about the history of Poostew. When and why did you start the band? How long have you been together with the current lineup? And where do you know each other from?**

Poostew was founded in 2003 by me and Guido (drums). Before the both of us were playing in Hatemate. Guido brought in his best friend Paul on the guitar and we started writing songs and playing shows with that lineup. As we were looking for a second guitar player I asked a friend of mine (Thomas), if he felt like playing in Poostew and he was immediately in it. Sometime at the end of 2004 we got Tim from Lt. Mosh, who we knew through playing shows together, in the band to fill the empty bass spot. Unfortunately at the beginning of 2005 Thomas told us that he had to quit the band to focus on his studies. Since then we are a four-piece - but we're still in search of a new guitar player.

**I think you have to answer this question every time, but what does your name mean? Or where does it come from, how did you come about such a name?**

Poostew is our own creation! This word has no meaning in any language of this world. This is an old story. We had our first show in view and where in search of a name. Paul and Guido (both totally addicted to weed and beer at that time) had the idea to merge the words "poo" and "stew" into one. I was over voted pretty soon, due to the fact that we were only three guys in the band. I think it should not have any meaning at that time and is a proper name nowadays.

**You already did a couple of releases. Among them a 7", a split CD with Ripped To Shreds and your full length CD/LP on Morde-Chai and Shove records respectively. Can you tell a bit about some of the releases?**

The split 7" was released by a label called "licht-ung" (German for clearance). This guy (I don't even know his name anymore) approached us after a show and said he had a band and wanted to release a split 7" with us. At that time we hadn't heard anything of his band "Licht-ung" but we gave it a try and sent him the

some songs that we wanted to release as demo. In the beginning he said he would send us a test press and then the whole pressing would be done. After some weeks I had a 7" lying in my postbox and we were like "is this the test press?" and he said, no he was under pressure and so he got the whole thing already pressed. We were really surprised about what was on the b-side. Some strange noise stuff. It was so cool that we even thought about ironing the b-side to get rid of it but then we left it like that :)

**Did you want to release the initial releases on your own or didn't you have a label that was interested?**

For the first record we had some people that were interested in helping us and we wanted to release it with Shove Records. Unfortunately Manuel didn't get around doing stuff and after Ripped To Shreds asking us if we wanted to do a split with them, the decision was made to finance it by ourselves.

**How did you get together with Marcel from Silentstagnation Records? And did you have other offers from labels?**

Well, we got in touch when Marcel was ordering a T-Shirt from us and he helped me, as I didn't know about the cheapest shipping and postage, to find the cheapest possibility to send it. From then on there was a rather frequent email contact, where we mostly ranted about music. It was rather obvious that we were on the same level considering our interests and as Marcel is a really cool dude he offered us to release a split on Silentstagnation Records. Shortly after sending him one song of our current recordings he also offered to release a full length. We also had some other labels that we were in touch with, but after talking with Marcel on the phone for over two hours about all kind of different stuff it was clear that we had found our label in Silentstagnation Records.

**Which kind of expectations do you have regarding your cooperation? And how do you see your future?**

Well, we expect a close working together in every aspect with Marcel. You have to be able to rely on your label and know that the people behind a label are

working their asses off for you or are really interested in helping the band progress. A label shouldn't be about profit only - but have passion for their bands. This isn't the case at most bigger labels as they're following too many what customers could buy. I hope that we can play more shows through that cooperation and tour a lot more.

**What kind of background do you have? Do you see yourself as a hardcore band or are your roots somewhere in grindcore or somewhere else?**

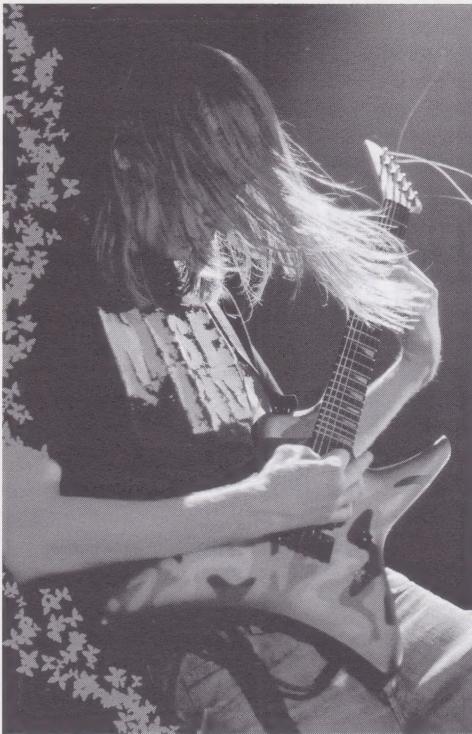
We have our roots in different styles, but at our heart we're a hardcore band. I don't think we're a "real" grindcore band, as we're having so many influences that it's hard to find a category.

**When you toured last year with HeWhoCorrupts did you get booked as well by BloomExplode? And are you booking all of your shows yourself? Where else besides in Germany did you play shows so far?**

We booked our shows on the HeWhoCorrupts tour ourselves. We knew the guys from HeWhoCorrupts and when we had the dates and the cities the would play, I directly contacted the promoter in every town and so we had our part really fast together. I'm booking all of our shows. I'd love to have someone helping me with that and hopefully through working with Silentstagnation Records we get that possibility. Besides Germany we played in Denmark, Austria, Belgium, Luxembourg, Holland and in Switzerland. In Austria and in the Benelux countries the crowd response was always very good, people always seem to have fun there at shows. In Germany it's quite often that coolness and pc-law are hindering people from having fun.

**I've heard that you're working at a record label right now. Could you tell us a bit about what you're doing there?**

I'm currently doing an intern at Side One Dummy, where I'm responsible for promotion and marking stuff. The label releases bands like MxPx and has its focus mostly on Punk and Posthardcore. Mirko the boss in Germany is coming from a hardcore background and started building up the label. Besides that he's



also a booking agency called 11PM and is doing also promotion and management for bands. At Side One Dummy there's Mirko and me working there and soon there will be another intern. Right now we're rather busy with that limited amount of people. The label is rather active and it seems to running really well. One group on that label are Gogol Bordello, they're doing something called Gipsy Punk and their singer has been acting in a movie with Elijah Wood and this has pushed the popularity of the band. And that is really crazy what kind of newspapers and journalists are approaching you then. "Die Zeit" (big German weekly newspaper) ran story, ORF (Austrian public television channel) was transmitting a story and there was quite a lot going on... That's really interesting seeing how a professional label works. Mirko is also working for Cardiac Communications, who are promoting tours like that "Spirit Tour", that was booked by Green Hell and he's responsible for the music department there and is putting together compilations and stuff like that. And as he can't afford paying a second employee he's offering interns.

Right now I'm waiting for a university place as I want to study medicine. Before I worked as a paramedic and have also worked in that job for a while. While I'm waiting for the place I'm doing this intern. The cool thing besides to get to see the inner workings of a label is that Mirko also has this hardcore background.

For example I could also ask him when we were working out the details with Marcel for our releases and he commented what he thought was good and what he didn't like. So this helps us also for the band, because you get some idea how you can do something professionally. But that doesn't mean to earn money, because this is just not possible, but to play and tour as much as possible, don't lose money and get to see a lot. I think this is maybe something young kiddies don't understand, that it's not the goal to earn money, if they're starting a band.

I think that through this load of metalcore releases, those people doing the zines, who have been listening to that stuff for quite a long time

now, are just fed up with that kind of music and it's harder to pick the good ones among those releases.

I think the problem with that is that the music industry has a different view on it. Metalcore seems to be the unofficial follower to NuMetal and is selling rather well. If I read in promo sheets things like "Metalcore is going over the top... but talking of a short term hype is definitely wrong", then I think that this can't be true. If you have to start already to tell everyone how serious it is and that it's credibly, to be able to sell it and still sell the metalcore stuff cheaper, then there's hope that it's maybe soon over. I think for labels, especially the bigger ones, it's rather difficult to sell records to a "normal" audience, because these people rather buy merchandise, than a CD for 15 euros. We are lucky that we get booked for metalcore shows as well as metal shows, even though we don't fit into that metalcore stuff musically. Among others we played a show with Caliban and there were about 650 people and I think we sold our whole merchandise at that evening, probably because we had the cheapest, because we don't have thousands of colors on a print and therefore our stuff is quite inexpensive. We sold everything merch, buttons, buttons of another band, that wasn't even playing that evening, everything was gone. There you recognize that only shirts and buttons get bought, to show something and music gets downloaded from the internet. For us it's not an issue, but with bigger labels, there's a company, that should generate profit and that hurts them. We only want to travel around, see a lot of places and that's why we do it. For us it's cool to see something and to get to know new people. I think for us that's also the special thing about this community, that there are so many people behind it, who are doing it just for the love of music, without thinking about profit. Shows get setup, because you feel like seeing your favorite band in your town. That's hardcore for me, you do something for one another but this is also done for you. We don't care about this image thing, if we play enough metal or if we don't play enough for a real metal band, we don't care. There's this funny story with a tour singer from Bolt Thrower. We played a show somewhere and were behaving really stupid. There was a metal band playing and we borrowed their spike wrist bands. We had loads of fun that evening, dropping those cliché metal slogans on stage and everyone was into it. After the show there was this singer and he said "such cool music, but you guys definitely have the wrong haircuts", funny. At that evening the guys from Ripped To Shreds were approaching us because of the split and we arranged the stuff for the split with them there. But looking back I'm not sure if they understood that we were doing a parody and making fun that evening.

What kind of crazy picture is on the b-side of the LP, where you're standing there with the horse? Is there a deeper meaning behind it or is it some inside joke?

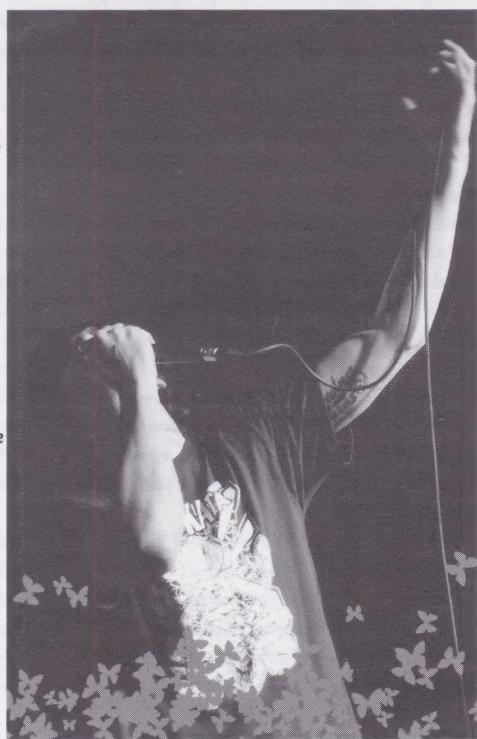
That photo was shot sometime in summer last year. I posted it on the internet for fun. I got funny comments on it, ranging from "that sucks" to "it looks awesome". Then I put it in my Poisonfree profile and then I got offers from sex to marriage, really crazy. But I got also comments like what kind of asocial guy I am, considering animal rights and riding

on a horse is not hardcore. So I was every time lying on the floor laughing. Sometime it was about time to do the layout for the record. There Tim, our former bass player and me decided to put our faces on each side of the record, because we are the best :) So that was the plan, to have one of us on the A side holding one thumb and the other one on the B side holding up two thumbs. Well somehow we didn't get around doing it and then I was under pressure and I sent this photo to Kubassa and said just put it on the B side. We don't take all that stuff too serious and we want to show that, especially because our promo photo looks like such a total cliché photo, but all the other pictures were too bad to be used because we were posing around like vikings.

Apropos pictures... I've heard you're "model" for the Titus skate/clothing whatever mail order? How did you get there?

A friend of mine, she's casting models for photo shootings fro Titus and one time she had problems finding models for a short term photo shooting. Then my phone rang and she said "Chris, can you imagine to model?", after that question I just hung up. Immediately afterwards she called again and she said "Chris, I've got a real problem" - "nope, I'm not interested..." I hung up again, but I had a bad conscience so I called her, telling her that I would help out if she couldn't find anybody and that's how I came about it. So I went to that thing and it was more like a casting. They did the photo shoot but it was also a Casting for modeling. Then they put me in the catalogue and now I've been in it two times and I can use the money quite well at the moment, because I'm jobless at the moment, because the intern is not the big money. I think it's funny. One time I got mail where someone asked "are you really in that catalogue? I bet on a box of beer." Well sorry guy you lost your beer.

The layout was done by Szandor Kubassa. On one hand, how did you get to work with him? I read in another interview, that the man on the cover is a symbol for the worker / employee in his daily



**fight? Who had the idea for that? Did you have more influence of the details?**

Originally we wanted a cover he did for a competition for a Dying Fetus record. That's how we found out about him. This was with the statue of liberty, which was holding the head of Osama Bin Laden in her hand and a rifle in the other hand. We liked that one with the rifle and we asked him if he couldn't exchange the head for a scale to symbolize justice. He admitted that he liked the idea but he didn't feel like to reuse the cover he had done for someone else. He wanted to be creative and do something new. Then we were thinking about the statue of liberty wearing a suit, strangulating herself. Then we got away from the idea with the statue and said let's just use an employee in a suit. That's how it got together. I was calling him a lot in that process.

**Do you have persons or bands whose lyrics mean a lot to you and who inspire you? Not in the sense of copying obviously but that you can identify with the lyrics or take something out of the lyrics?**

Not in a conscious way. At the last recording there was one line, which I just wrote and afterwards we discovered that "the engine is alive" is somewhere in a song by Nasum. Most of the time I don't read so many lyrics, because I'm more the guy, who says, read the lyrics but I rarely read lyrics myself. E.g. I'm not interested in the lyrics of Nile. The inspiration basically comes from everyday life.

**While I was reading your lyrics not everything was straight forward and so I thought about some songs and so I have a few questions considering that. E.g. when I read in "Untitled Sequence": "animals abused for the money machine to praise the worldwide steak religion". Just a simple question but are you vegetarians?**

Well, we're not a whole vegetarian band. I'm vegetarian and the other two are eating meat. This is not an issue in the band. And I don't preach about that. I don't want to be an upholder of moral standards. What I think is annoying is that if I see some anti capitalist guy, who thinks he's the best and everything else that has something to do with capitalism is a piece of shit and then he's going to eat a steak, then I ask myself, why he's supporting one of the biggest capitalist industries, the meat industry.

**"Engelmacherin" is a rather specific German expression, which is in a certain context. What was the reason to choose it as title for the lyrics?** I chose the song title in German, because it only makes sense in German. "Engelmacherinnen" were women, who were killing small children in a subtle way. Like bathing the children in the evening and putting them in front of the open window that they got pneumonia. That the children died of typical children's sicknesses.

**Ok, I only knew that expression for someone, doing illegal abortions in the past, under horrible hygienic circumstances.**

That's also one meaning. These were also persons conducting dangerous abortions in the back room with sewing needles and stuff like that. If the child was already born, then they hired as something like a nanny, to take care of the child. In the past the upper drawer of commodes were used as bed for the

small children and if they pushed the drawer in, then the child suffocated. But it looked like an accident. Just like with pneumonia. When the children were put at the open window and got sick and then died of pneumonia. But my stance in "Engelmacherin" was about sedating. The song is dealing with sedating the own will and that already at a really young age it is tried to sedate the creativity and the will of the children. If a child is restless, then the diagnosis is ADD (attention deficit disorder) and the child gets Ritalin to be sedated. I think nowadays it's quite often the case that the easiest way is taken by some people to avoid any kind of stress with their children. Sometimes parents come to a doctor and say "wouldn't ritalin help?" and such people really do take the really easy way. That's what I wanted to emphasize in that song, that children are put aside and sedated.

I like it, when someone asks me questions about my lyrics, because then I know that someone is dealing with what I want to express and is not just listening to the music. And if someone finds something, where he/she takes something out of it.

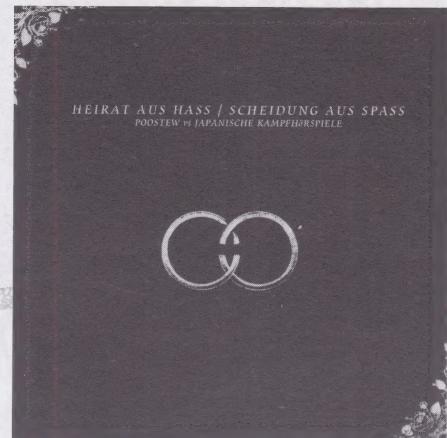
That's why I always say that if someone wants to ask something or wants to get in touch with me, just drop me an email. Because communication is important.

**Are you this kind of person who sits down to write lyrics and then you start writing or is it more like, that you're thinking about something or something comes to your mind and then you write it down?**

Well, sometimes I'm really lazy and I emphasize more on songwriting and try to make the lyrics fit very well to the music, because I'm also taking part in the songwriting process. Everyone can contribute a riff or something and if it's good, then it's used in a song. That's quite cool I think. And if it's like that, then I'm sitting down at home and start writing like 2 texts in a row. In such a situation I'm mostly thinking about what pissed me off in the last time and what I'm currently interested in, and then I'm writing that down. Most of the time it's something that touches me personally, then that finds its way into the lyrics. Those lyrics are then lying around for a while and then I reread them at a later time and rework them if necessary. It's read up to 5 times until a text is finished. Sometimes I take apart the sentences to confuse people, but when they are reading more careful they'll understand. Or sometimes I'm putting words together in a matter that they have more than one meaning. It can also happen, that something that makes an impression on me like, a line in a song, an event or something like that gets written down.

"Struggle" the name of our record comes from the band called Struggle, one of the best oldschool bands, I think. They were at the same time around like Unbroken. So this word fit very well. That these kinds of things, they get

HEIRAT AUS HASS / SCHEIDUNG AUS SPASS  
POOSTEW + JAPANISCHE KAMPHIORSPIELE



written down, at the computer or on a piece of paper and they find their way into the lyrics. I try to listen to my surroundings rather consciously. Then it happens that I sit in the cinema and I hear some cool sentence, that I type it in my cell phone. But I'm not that kind of guy who runs around philosophy all the time. No I'm not that kind of guy.

**Just some easy questions at the end. What's your opinion on myspace?**

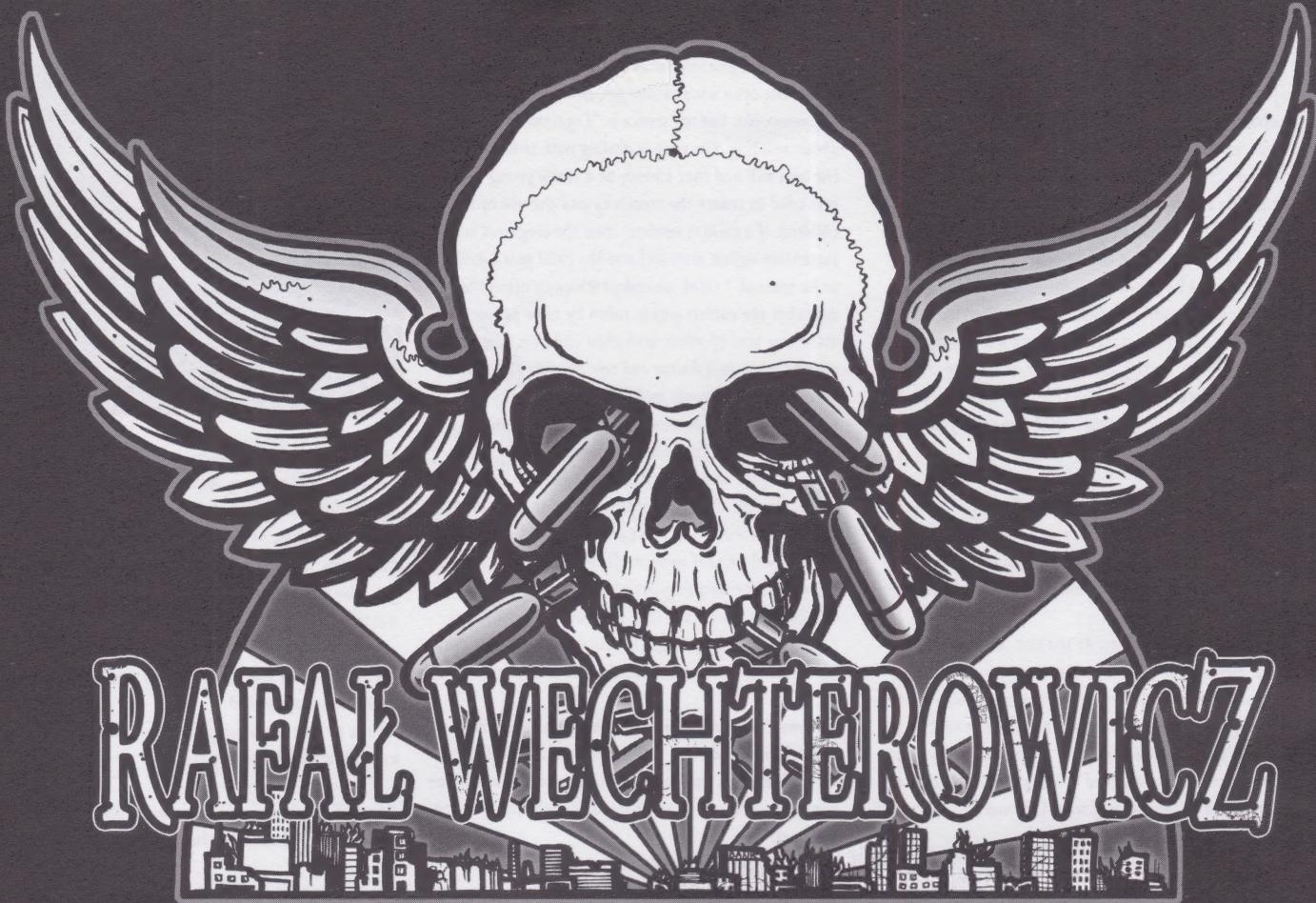
It's the perfect advertising space for bands, but for everything else it's simply stupid.

**What kind of music do you listen to? What are your favorite bands in the genre and which one are different?**

Personal highlights are definitely Misery Index. If Nasum would have had that production I could have listened to them for a whole record. Dying Fetus were one of my favorite bands back then, this groovy Death Metal, but I think this band became totally ridiculous, especially with all the lineup changes and stating that they're not a political band after writing highly political lyrics. Black Dahlia Murder's "Unhallowed" is awesome. These are 3 bands I can always listen to. The other stuff depends on my mood. I'm e.g. Phantomas Fan and everything by Mike Patton. I have basically everything of him, even features, I'm really a big fan of him. Hardcore related it's Earth Crisis, Assuck and Acrid. These Chainsaw guitars and this horrible production, awesome :)

[www.poostew.de](http://www.poostew.de)





WWW.WECHTEROWICZ.COM

Please introduce yourself at the beginning... I think this makes a good start.

I don't really know if introducing myself will make a good start but OK I will say it... My name is Rafal Wechterowicz and I am quite old, especially when taking 'scene standards' into consideration. I like to draw and almost in all my designs there are some skulls visible. I love old bands like Dezter, Siekiera, Judge, Dag Nasty, Negazione and Stikky. I don't know which Nike shoes are now popular on the scene. I don't drink coca-cola I would rather drink fresh apple juice. I make good sunflower burgers. In my free time I work as a teacher of Polish.

Do you consider yourself a talented man or are you rather a person who reaches all goals with hard work? And do you think that talent itself is enough to be a good draughts man?

It's not so simple in my case. If we optimistically presume that I'm gifted I have to add that it reveals itself in fragments. Some time ago I drew much worse and now it's a bit better and this change isn't a result of having special abilities but from working hard to become better and better. Of course I exaggerated with this "hard work" because for me drawing is extremely pleasant but when I want to achieve the ultimate aim I have to spend a lot of time on it. Sweat and tears are part of it as well. But this is worthwhile because I am more and more satisfied with the results I achieve. I am far from self-adoration and like nobody else I know what my weak side is but I can also see progress in my works. And if I see progress it means that I should work

harder to get higher and higher. Coming back to your question, I don't think that talent is enough.

Are you self-taught or were you taught by someone? Or maybe you were just watching somebody else draw and later you tried to imitate his/her drawings?

I am a typical example of a self-taught draughts man. I didn't take any lessons in it and I didn't graduate from any art school. If I learned something I did it by myself. I have always liked to draw, as a child I started with drawing cars. These cars disappeared very quickly from my sketches and were replaced with skulls and other horrible things. Admiringly I observe works of other artists but when one just observes it means almost nothing. Without some exercises one will not succeed. And there are different kinds of exercises. Their aim can be for example: copying somebody's style. This helps to make another step forward but this step can also be made by other kinds of exercises (like traditional character study). I have hardly ever done this kind of exercise but I can assure you that I should. And here we are, back to the issue from the previous question.

Everybody has some source of inspiration. What is your inspiration? And where do you seek inspiration?

I think that my every action is inspired by life itself. And I don't mean some kind of special experiences in life but everyday life. I don't need traumatic experiences to draw them later. Direct inspirations are very different but their basic aim is the simple joy of creation. I am not the kind of guy who needs pain and suffering to create and I think I am far from becoming

one! I think that my drawings are better when I am in a better mood. I draw because it makes me happy. And in this sense everything that keeps me in good mood inspires me and it doesn't matter how dark and crazy my drawings are.

I heard that in your drawings one can see Dave Quiggle's style. Can you tell us something about that? Do you copy his style or not?

I was impressed by D. Quiggle's drawings some time ago. He is a very good artist, full of ideas. And one can almost at once recognize his style. I was accused of copying his style – which should be a compliment for me because that would mean I am talented enough to copy the unique style of somebody who I admire. But it's not so easy and by all means I have never wanted to copy somebody's style. There are some similarities that can be noticed, we both are inspired by old school tattoos but in my opinion there are just few similarities. I don't want to be anybody's copy and I hope I am not. I'm just doing things my way. And I can truly say that this is my only aim. And if somebody likes judging things by appearances, it is not my problem.

As far as I know, some of your designs are made to order. It doesn't matter if it's a tattoo, t-shirts, band, zine or label design. What did you achieve in this category? Are the people who order drawings satisfied with the final outcome? Tell us who you worked/are working with?

I have more and more orders. One can even say that

I've been a very busy man lately. But this kind of job gives me only satisfaction so it just pleases me. For me every new design is some kind of a challenge and I don't care about bands' names here. This is not about drawing something better for well-known bands. I do my best each time. I want to add here that I was privileged to make designs for some bands. But I don't want to boast and I will not give any specific names. And I think that up till now everybody was happy with my work. Of course there is a risk when my idea and idea of the person ordering the drawing is totally different. But I do sketches at the beginning and I think that communication is very important. I have to say here that I am sometimes unsatisfied with people who don't want to pay for well-done work. Fortunately there were just few of them.

You use different drawing techniques. Do you see any advantages of learning many techniques? Don't you think that it's better to be the best in one specific technique than to be good at many?

This is just me, I like to test myself in different techniques and conventions. The greater challenge the greater mobilization and higher chance for success. Of course, I could reduce the number of techniques I use but I just don't feel like it. And I don't care if somebody accuses me of the lack of artistic personality. And it often looks this way: somebody wants me to draw something and this person wants me to draw using a specific technique. And what should I say to them: "I'm sorry but I will not draw it because this is not my style"? I learn a lot by having to do with different types of orders. My primary aim is to be better and better in drawing and to achieve it I can draw a salamander on a Cadillac or a skull with wings.

How do you feel about drawing? Do you know how the design will look like before you start to draw and you just redraw your ideas on a piece of paper? Or do you like to freestyle with your drawings and you just have the main structure of a drawing and you add details during the process?

The idea is important. I used to draw without an idea in the past but these were specific works and I think that thanks to it they look so surrealistic. Now I usually start from doing sketches or just studying the details of the project. Sketch is like contours of an idea so it happens very often that the final version differs a lot from the first sketch. There are some designs that are impossible to draw without doing sketches first. Maybe it's cool to be a 'freestyle artist' but it doesn't

always bring about effects.

How do you see your finished works? Do you feel some emotional connection between you and them? Or are these just drawings for you, dead objects? I do feel emotional connection with my works but I don't want to lapse into exaltation. As I see it: every single work of mine is important because I put my heart in each of them. But not all of them survived the time trial, which is predictable, I lavish greater feeling to those from which I am more satisfied with. I do care about my works they don't end up in the litter bin. I like to look at my old works.

Now let's talk a while about the hardcore scene. I know that you have been in it for a long time. What was so captivating in it? And how did you start your adventure with hardcore? What kind of changes have you observed within all these years?

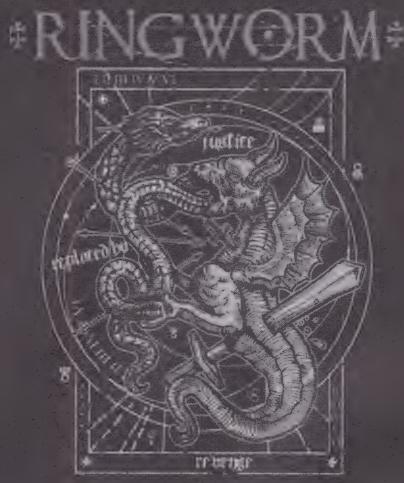
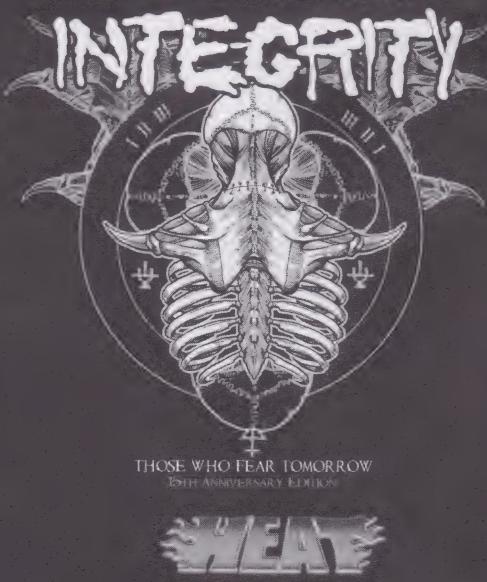
I don't know if I am able to mention all important issues on this one. In short, there are many things that were fascinating for me in the HC scene. There isn't just one thing about it, what's important is that the strength of the people there is much bigger when they are together.

When I started my adventure with HC the movement itself was treated as a creative development of punk revolt from the late 70's. Behind these two simple words: ethos, precisely defined values and behavior models lie hidden. I've always seen it that way. HC was a spontaneously born movement of young people who wanted to create something that was a real alternative for evil society. For me it is still (as it has always been) about living better, to be more active and more conscious. I thought this way when I was 15 and now when I am two times older I still think the same. HC was born as a result of rebellion against all negative behaviors that society considers normal. And this is what HC should be because in other way it's just becoming another music scene for those who think that are eccentric because they listen to heavy music. Of course I do like the music but I think it's not what you were asking about. I love it because it has a lot of energy that cannot be found in any other genre. My adventure started with some accidental contacts with punk music which were played in some radio station rarely. That was almost the end of communism regime in Poland and it was harder to buy a punk or HC CD than a banana. And than again, by accident, a zine called "Szubienica" got into my hands. Thanks to its editors I was able to get in contact with some people

from the scene. And this is how it started. And it can not end and I can confirm it with the example of this interview being made with me at the moment. What has changed through all these years? Lots. You know yourself, many tends appeared in the scene and you know how fast fans of metalcore become its worst enemies. There was a time when spiritual development was important, there was a fad on veganism and straight edge, an idea to return to punk roots, and now I think that drinking coca-cola is the way to live. And what I remember the most from its beginnings is the atmosphere of spontaneity. And I think this is what I miss the most today. I am afraid that HC is becoming less connected to some ideas, lack of spirit of rebellion is observed. And I will not complain about it unless I feel that this is not the essence of HC anymore.

When I started going to hardcore shows lots of people told me that HC scene is a "real alternative" against society. How do you see it today? Don't you think that scene is more and more like society and all its rules? This question is connected with the previous one. There are many things in HC that I don't understand and I completely don't understand what some things have to do with HC movement. HC can be a real alternative, it can also be a youth subculture where the main goals are: listening to specified bands and wearing the same type of clothing. I miss the spirit of rebellion which was present in the music and in the attitude of totally different bands like Agnostic Front or MDC (I speak here about the roots of this movement, HC was not born with Bridge 9 Records). And I'm not saying here about the lack of primary social sensitivity or political consciousness but about the fact how easily HC scene becomes just youth subculture without any ambitions and just following new trends. I see it this way, maybe I'm too critical about it but there are lots of issues to complain about. Scene can be a "real alternative", but is it? It is hard today to call hardcore scene an alternative one because HC (especially in USA) became a part of mainstream. Sexism, homophobia, violence at the shows, mindless consumption, following the trends blindly, simple thoughtlessness and stupidity, egoism and calculation – this is what I see in HC scene. "Real alternative"? But on the other hand can one find great people who are a part of the real alternative. And as long as these are not just individuals it all makes sense.

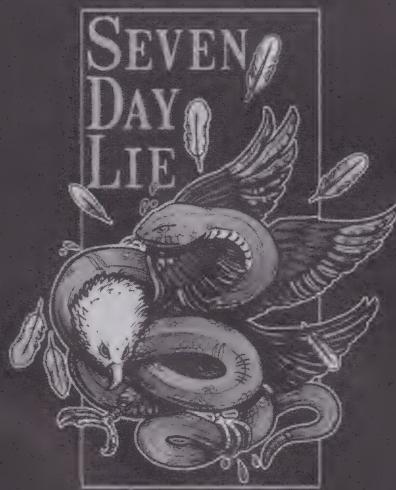
In one of your earlier interviews you have said: "youth of today goes into hip hop or techno. And it goes this



way cause in HC, one has to be active". Do you think that people are so lazy? They don't want to be active anymore?

One can also see it in HC scene, I mentioned it earlier, and it's not a fad to be involved and conscious (????). This is not the environment for individuals who believe in some values because if you are naive you can be hit on the head. Others can laugh at you, and in the best case somebody else will speak about your inconsistency. The easiest way is not to have any values, do nothing and emphasize everybody else's faults. It's better now to be an arrogant asshole, what was looked at with disgust some time ago is accepted today. Anyway I don't want to say that HC scene is totally fucked up, and it will not be fucked up as long as there will be people who want to create a fanzine where one will be able to find interviews with bands that have something interesting to say and as long as there will be people who organize anti-fur manifestations. Coming back to the gist of your question. Lack of activity results from no need to express oneself, manifesting one's values and finally to fighting for one's beliefs. People who believe in nothing will not be active because there is no inner need that can push them to action, they are empty. The modern man is just interested in living in luxury, some just dream about it, others get it. But you know, one can always change car for a new model and the vicious circle closes. Of course I can understand those who have to fight for existence but I don't have any mercy for these who live just to possess. I know people who work hard to make ends meet. But I also know such people who are wealthy enough to live but they lose themselves in the race for goods which don't contribute to any good when it comes to their personal development and I think that this is the main aim in life. Most people don't live their own life but try to fit themselves in a specified group of social behaviors. This is the easier way. The only activity which is approved of is an activity that helps to strengthen your own social position. Frankly speaking this is not about better and wiser life but about more points that one can write down in a CV and than go higher and higher and launch out on a great career. And competition, the most important issue is competition at all costs! This is not the kind of activity I think about.

Once I wondered how my life would look like if I didn't listen to HC and didn't know the scene... Think what could have happened to you do if you haven't discovered punk/HC...



I am afraid to think about what would have happened. I see it this way, I can have (theoretically) everything what ordinary people do. But they can't have what I have. And I don't claim that people can realize themselves by means of hardcore scene. This is not the issue. But thanks to HC scene you can be a part of a "real alternative". Who would I be? I would not spend half of day working on the cover for a band from Argentina, I would not write answers for your interview, I would not listen to demo of 10 Minutes Warning, I would not eat vegan specialties and I would not read the demonstrator's handbook on the local squat web site.

I know that you are Straight Edge. How do you feel about it? We all know the definition of sxé but what does it mean to you personally? What has this movement changed in your life?

I became straight edge just because I have always seen some bad things in drinking alcohol: drunken husbands beating their wives, drunken drivers causing accidents, drunken hooligans threatening ordinary people, drunken rebels talking some bullshit about fighting with the system. I have not been sxé since I was born so I know what I've "lost". Straight edge for me is a kind of protest against social norms, which tell us to drink us when there is an occasion and that we should go with friends for a beer. It's against rebel that starts and ends with drinking alcohol and taking drugs. I live in Poland and drinking is one of our national traditions, which is accepted without any reflections. I don't want to have anything in common with that. We live in a culture where alcohol has its role which is hard to over evaluate. Alcohol, for me, is also one of the ways to manipulate the society. It's true that it is easier to rule a drunken society. For me drinking is a behavior beneath some standards like for others listening to disco or wearing white socks. For many people drinking is an escape from grim reality. Why should one change it if one can feel good for a moment?

What is your opinion on the statement: "...straight edge is a reaction to some social behaviors"? I don't want to repeat ideas I wrote in the previous answer but... For me straight edge is not just a personal choice but a voice of protest against negative behaviors such as the men's weakness for drugs. I do not drink because I know it is good for me but also because I see bad effects of drinking all around me. And I am not talking just about some bad things but also about those stupid ones. I try to be as

far as possible from it. For me personally other factor is important. Straight edge was a reaction for negative behaviors beyond punk subculture and it was a kind of motivation also for me because I did not want to have anything in common with rebels with wine in their hands. I wanted to be as much positive as it is possible and that is why I became straight edge.

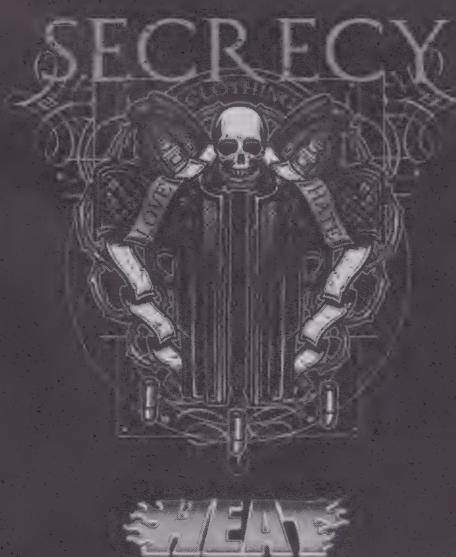
Lots of people claim that straight edge is good but up to a point in life. You are 31 years old and you are still sxé. So how is it with 'being too old for sxé'? Maybe you are not adult enough?

I think I am not. I do not want to resign from all I have and I think that this doesn't exclude being sxé. For some being drug free is just an episode, just the chosen ones will stay 'true till death'. And I don't evaluate people according to this category. I do appreciate people who are consequent in what they are doing. I do not think a lot about me being straight edge because this is my way of living and that's it. I can't find any reasons to start drinking Polish vodka. This is normal for me! And there are no rewards for people who stick to their beliefs. I am STILL straight edge but it does not mean that I am a kind of a hero. This is the way it should be because some time ago I chose to live my life this way. This is absolutely normal.

Does veganism play an important role in your life? Why have you decided to give up eating meat and became 'meat free'?

It is very important for me. This is one of the basic elements of my outlook and it is so important because it is of great importance in real life. One cannot be vegan from time to time, consequence is very crucial here because everyday activities like the choice of this or that product serves the great purpose. One should be aware of that because people resign from taking actions too often by saying that just one man or woman cannot do much. Bullshit! I became vegetarian and then vegan for the same reason as others. When you don't agree on hurting innocent creatures in the name of egoistic aims, the only logical choice is to stop eating meat. Veganism is not hard (like many people claim it to be) and there is a great satisfaction to it. For me there is no sense in writing about the philosophy of animal rights. I do not understand people who close their eyes when they see how animals are treated. I just do not understand.

And how does your diet affect you? I mean your attitude towards other people, from the scene and not.



How do you see people who eat meat?

This is a difficult issue. Partially I gave an answer to it in the previous question. But I will write it again: I do not understand how people knowing about all these facts concerning animal farms or the slaughterhouses do nothing to make animals' lives better. In this sense I do not find any justification for all those who do nothing about it. I do not know if it is connected with being lazy, lack of imagination or emotions or maybe something else. On the other hand I can understand that some people cannot find the time and energy to fight for animal rights because of their lives. Sometimes life is more complicated than lives represented in HC lyrics. But (and this 'but' is very important) I do not think that this problem can concern only the diet. In this sense this would be something not worth mentioning. This is about values and about what we are able to do for them. Our society in majority denies bad treatment of animals, not just vegetarians or vegans. So something is not right here. Of course I have some friends who eat meat. I don't care if somebody eats meat or not. I feel sad when people who call themselves intelligent and sensitive do not care about these issues.

What is your attitude towards fighting for animal rights? Do you do anything to rescue some innocent lives?

My attitude towards animal rights is a very positive one. I do consider this issue as very important one because a big part of our society just does not care about that. Care about animal rights does not exclude caring about human rights - I just want to make that clear because very often I hear this allegation against animal rights defenders. I will confess, I am not a big activist but from time to time I do take part in some actions for animal rights or those concerning promotion of vegetarianism/ veganism. What is obvious I am vegan.

What do you think about direct actions and using

violence to liberate animals?

My opinion about direct actions is almost positive. I do support them with all my heart if they are well planned and when they really help animals. What kind of violence are you talking about? I do not support direct violence against humans but I am not sure if there is any other way in some situations. Animals cannot wait, vivisection laboratories work very fast and effectively, butcher's knife is always sharp. I do admire all those people who can sacrifice so much to fight for the righteous case.

'The Might' please write something about this creature, OK?

The Might is an initiative which is a cooperation between me and a guy called Wojciech B. The Might is taking care of t-shirts production with my designs on it which are sold via email or on the shows. Everything has to do with Vegan Straight Edge ethic. Maybe it is not fashionable anymore but this is the way it will stay. I do not predict any changes.

What does art mean to you? What kind of art do you see today on the hardcore scene? And do you consider yourself an artist?

What is art? That is a hard question. Human race has always tried to answer this question. Maybe one should agree that it is the only kind of activity typical for our kind. Speaking of art, I have one question: what can be called art and what can't? I see art as a basic form of expressing emotions that are hidden in humans and as abilities of humans' creative power. Art may be created for many reasons: as a will to search for new kinds of expression, to shock, expressing one's frustrations, educating, entertaining... and this list could be very long. It is very possible that they all are connected with HC scene in some way. Everything here is connected with music. It does not have to mean that verbal message is not important anymore. It is so powerful because of this music. And if you ask me I am not an artist, I just like to draw :)

I know that you like music a lot. Please write some name of bands that you feel are important to you... I have listened to music for such a long time that it will be hard to mention them all. My beginnings are connected with bands like Dezerter and Siekiera - I still love them. Soon after that I got acquainted with music of Extreme Noise Terror, Napalm Death, Electro Hippies, Negazione, Ripcord, B.G.K. Access to music was very limited those days but slowly I was getting to more and more interesting bands Stikky, Crass, Rudimentary Peni, Freezee, Crucifix, Cro mags, Poison Idea, Agnostic Front, Killing Time, Headcleaners, Mob 47, Protes Bengt, Youth of Today, Insted, Bad Brains, Judge, Septic Death, Generic. All of these bands still make good impression on me. Than I listened to some new school stuff and names like Strife, Unbroken or Refused which are classics today. Than there was the metalcore fashion and here I also had my favorite bands. If I talk about shows I just want to say that my first show made a great impression on me. It was something new for me, everything was so fresh. If one sees HCP on his 2nd show in life and Verbal Assault on the 3rd one it is hard to forget them. I listen to the music almost all the time. I like listening to some new bands too.

You are a rather happy guy with a specific sense of humor. I think I have never seen you sad. Where is the source of this happiness and sense of humor? What do you mean by saying that I am a rather happy guy? I sometimes stare at the ceiling but I do not do it very often. And what does 'specific sense of humor' mean? Nobody laughs at my jokes? Maybe you have not seen me sad but I still can find some reason to be depressed. But frankly speaking I am not a fan of emo shit and I do not look to good with a sad face. Where does this good humor come from? I do not know. I think it is the way I am!

Thank You very much for this interview. Any last comments...

Don't forget the struggle, don't forget the streets...

# OUT OF THE Ooze AND BORN TO CRUISE!



# Agents Of Man

## COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS...

**Hi Chris! How do you feel today?**

**CZESC Adam.** Honestly I'm feeling sick. Hahahaha! I caught a cold while on our current tour with Danny Diablo and Ringworm, so I am lying in my bunk hoping to get better soon instead of partying.

**As far as I know you have just comeback from your 1st European tour. What were you thinking before your trip? And how different was reality from your expectations?**

I was thinking "HOLY SHIT" we are really going to Europe and I didn't know what to expect. Gook was out there a few times with his other bands so he told us a little about how things are going to go down. Once we got there it was like a dream come true. I mean I have been to Poland many times to visit my family, but never been anywhere else in Europe. I wasn't sure how well we would get along with the other bands; crew, how the food was going to be or how the European audience will accept AOM.

**I read that most of shows were sold out. Did many people know your band? How did you feel on the stage, European stage?**

Yeah 13 of the shows were sold out which is amazing in itself. Again, A DREAM COMES TRUE. Not many people knew of AOM but they sure do now. The venues were amazing and the stages are just like any other stage. Just have to get up there and have fun doing what we always do. We have all been doing this for a long time but even now I still get a little nervous.

**Do You think that Hell On Earth tour was rather successful? If anybody proposes you another tour like that one would You agree?**

FUCK YEAH! It was successful and FUCK YEAH! We would do another tour like that one without a second thought. It was great experience for us and an opportunity to reach out to the fans in Europe that have been in support of AOM since 2001. It sucks that we didn't get to go home to my mother land of Poland. Maybe next year....I heard the polish kids are crazy...hahahaha

**What are your the best and the worst memories from HOE?**

Ummmm....Well while we were in Manchester, UK I bought a digital camera cuz the one I brought with me was pissing me off. After I bought it I called my brother and asked him if it was a good camera. He said yeah but I paid double what it would cost back home... So that was the worst the best was that I took 1000 pictures of the different countries, people and new friends we made on the tour so I will never forget

them. There was nothing but good times the whole tour. WAIT I recall another bad time. On our way to the Czech Republic our trailer broke off of our bus and ended up in a ditch....That sucked. I had Swiss cheese in Switzerland, I had fresh Heineken in Holland and OH YEAH....Had some banging herbs in Holland too and I broke a piece of the Berlin wall off with my bare hands.....LOL

**What has changed in AOM in last 2 years time (I did an interview with Puda 2 years ago)? Did you have any line-up changes?**

Well a lot of things have progressed. Signed our deal with Century, got our record out in stores, video's, tours, and interviews are all coming in. Not sure now how long ago it was but now we have Mike "the Gook" Cools playing bass for us. Mike played bass in Sworn Enemy, Cold as Life and has been a long time friend and fan of AOM so he made the perfect match.

**Your CD was released by a big label (Century Media). How your cooperation is running, are you satisfied with what they do for AOM?**

The album "Count Your Blessings..." was released thru Century Media on June 14<sup>th</sup> 2005. The label has been extremely helpful in all aspects that a label should be. All the people at the European office are cool as fuck and have been an asset to AOM's growth in the European markets. In the US things are also moving along at an extremely fast pace.... I don't think the US office ever closes... I think they might be working 24 hrs 7 days a week to make sure their bands are successful. All in all cool people, great label and I am happy we signed with them.

**I tried to find some adjectives to describe the "Count Your Blessings". And I can say that it's unique, amazing, and very diverse...Where lies inspiration for such diverse music?**

It lies deep very deep in our hearts. I like to use this analogy: Music is like a delicious meal, if you eat the same thing every day you will get sick of it and never want it again. You need to have variety in life or else the time we have on earth becomes fucking boring. We all grew up listening to many different styles of music so in essence we are like 5 chefs in one kitchen making a new delicious meal for your ears, heart, mind and soul every time.

**Do you think your sound evolve much from your previous release?**

Yes and No. The sound is still AOM it will never be anything other than that. So as we evolve as musicians of course our creations will grow with us.

**And can you say when this unique style was born? Was it with almighty Train Of Thought or maybe later?**  
**Me being the drummer from Train of Thought it is hard to give a UN bias opinion. I loved TOT but AOM is so much better. However for us this style was born during the Train of Thought times, but it was influenced by many other bands that have been doing it before us that never really got the recognition they deserved. Some of the bands like Leeway, Quicksand and Bad Brains were all mixing melodic vocals with hard riffs. Good music by good people for good folks.....**

**Were you afraid (maybe this isn't the best word) how the people will react on your new CD? Because we can hear certain style, which I think can be called Agents Of Man style...and it's totally different from what all hardcore kids are used to hear**

Afraid? NO WAY! We make our music for ourselves and appreciate all the friends and fans that like and support what we do. We are not going to put on tight girly pants and color our hair because that is the new trend which will be gone in a year. We are real dudes playing music from our hearts. They say never judge a book by its cover....there is a reason for that.

**You said in one of the interviews that: "This band is breaking musical boundaries". Do you think that there are still some boundaries to break?**

Of course there are. I mean you can't re-invent the wheel but you can always try to make it better right? Again... I hate eating the same food over and over even though we do eat a lot of tuna fish on tour cuz we are broke...LOL

**I read that you all live together in the same house. Do you think it helps with the band, writing songs. Do you find any disadvantages of this state?**

The house we live in has been the home base for 4 bands over the years. I was born and raised in that house so when I was a kid my family had a polish wedding band called the Polish Cowboys. Then we started Bulldoze, then Train of Thought and now Agents of Man. Sometimes it gets hard but it's just like living with your brothers and having a fight over what TV program to watch or what CD to listen to. As far as writing goes it defiantly helps because it's constant music and ideas flowing around. You will never know when you come up with a hot new riff or a melody or a lyric. So living together the vibes just feed off each other. I love when Rey comes into my room at 3 am waking me up to hear his new riff.....HAHHAAH Sometime I wanna break his guitar...hehehe

**Tell me about the "Count Your Blessings" CD...  
What is the main idea behind the title and the  
lyrics?**

Well it is sort of self explained. It is about many things including how today's world is currently in shambles. Basically it is about how we continue to make the same mistakes over and over until it's too late to fix them. Then people will turn and say "Oh God please help us". Also about people living and dwelling in the past, about jealousy and how people always think they know what is best for you.

**And I was surprised by the song called "Be My  
Savior"...shit it was astonished and beautiful...  
When you decided to record this one?**

This song was originally written in 1996 during our time as Train of Thought. We decided that it would make a great interlude in the record and we have gotten a lot of positive feed back on it. Sometimes when I listen to it....it makes me cry... And I think that everybody knows that you have recorded video to the song entitled "Death Of Me". Tell me something about that... We shot the video with Dale Restigini. It was our first video and none of us knew what to expect. It was a lot of fun making it and you can see it on the internet or your local music video program. We

shot another video for the song "Without a Trace" with Dave Brodsky which we are very proud of. We did it right before we left for the HOE tour. I think this one captured us well cuz it was more grungy and we knew what to expect so we were not as nervous.

**Do you think that your last album is a successful  
one? Have you had any negative opinions about  
it?**

Opinions are like assholes everyone has one. So yeah a few people have said they don't like it but for every 1 person that doesn't like it there are 10 that do. It is very successful. It's in stores and selling while we are touring a round the world in support of it. Not everyone in the world likes Gotabki know what I mean?

**What are you dreaming about as a band? Girls,  
money, maybe more CDS ;)**

Girls and Money of course bro.... Nothing else matters. Hahahahah! We have started writing for our new record even before the last one was done so you should see something new from us in 2006. The dream is to be able to play our music and pay our bills. It's really hard to make ends meet out here. Between paying for van repairs, gas and tolls, then you have broken cymbals that need to be replaced, guitar

strings, speakers and heads. People think its all fun and games but there is a lot behind the light and glory you don't see.

**Do you think you could decide to get out of  
hardcore? You know stop playing, listening to it,  
no more HC show in your life...Do you think you  
could live without it?**

Well for me it is less about HC and more about music. I don't listen to much HC at home. I listen to Regular radio and all kinds of music to get the inspirations for future creations. I can't live without music. I would rather shoot myself in the head then not have music to listen to.....

**What is the most important thing for You in your  
personal life?**

My music, My Family and my friends.

**Last comments...**

Thanks for the interview shout out to all the people that showed their support and love while on the HOE tour. As I Lay Dying, Evergreen Terrace, Nearea, Heaven Shall Burn, End of Days, Shulpf, Danny and Simone. Mad Tour Booking... and all the people reading this....Thanks so much!

**WWW.AGENTSOFMAN.COM**

**HEAVY**

# SELFMADEGOD RECORDS



Selfmade God Records is polish label based in Biala Podlaska. It was established about year 2000. It is one of the best Polish labels and I think that for sure one of the hardest working. The aim of Selfmade God has always been to release good bands (not just Polish!) that can be found in genres like punk/hardcore/thrash/grind/power violence on CDS as well as on vinyl's. Beside that label is responsible for doing shows, tours not only of bands that are on Selfmade God but also the ones with who this label is in good relations. The most important thing to mention is that Selfmade God is also distribution of other labels in Poland of world's metal/punk/hardcore scene. Distribution and label were started at the same time because as owner (Karol) of this label says: „At the level I work label and distribution can not exist without each other. At least label could not exist without distribution”. They carry in its catalogue such great labels like: Unmatched Brutality, Grindethic, Relapse, Xtreem Music, Goregiatric Records, Morbid Records, Obscene, Bizarre Leprous. And if we talk about official distribution we can write names such as: Sound Pollution (USA), Deathwish (USA), Lifeforce (Germany), Let It Burn (Germany), Circulation (Germany), Bridge 9 (USA), Century Media, Deep Six, Mystic Records (Poland), Several Bleeds (France), Relapse (USA), Reflections (The Netherlands), 625 Thrash.

If one talks about the label very interesting thing is the name but as Karol says: „The name was created by my friend Daniel and it does not have any special meaning. Just the name like thousands of others. Beside that I like it!” So as one can see this name is just cool, it does not mean nothing special!

I was always interested why people create labels... And in this case it was normal progress from doing zine, later newsletter. After this was label but with cassettes and we know what was created in 2000.

What can be found in Selfmade God releases? Just extreme music. Grind, death, thrash, hardcore, metal - all mixed up in different configurations. Karol says: „I release what I like and I do not take a look at what is fashionable right now... I like extreme sound but I have to admit that

I was grown up by punk rock music. But I think that there are not enough interesting punk/hardcore bands around”. But label is not closed for other genres. Shackled Down which plays fast core has been released there. And it is not important if a band plays hardcore, punk or grind. Important thing is that Karol has to like the band, people who are playing in there. And if these conditions are fulfilled there are no restrictions for CD to be released.

Grind scene or grindcore scene is not very popular. For example one could earn more money on metalcore releases. But as Karol says: „I do not care which genre of music is at the top now. Because it changes very often. Lately I have noticed more and more people interested in grindcore music... I just do what I like and I do not look at the others.” But as we all know there are a lot of bands from grindcore scene that are well known everywhere: REGURGITATE, MESRINE, MASTIC SCUM, INGROWING, AGORAPHOBIC NOSEBLEED, PIG DESTROYER just to mention few of them.

In last years Selfmade God was growing bigger and bigger. And it started as underground label and now... where is it? Is it still an underground label? Karol says: „It depends what we understand under this term: „underground”? For me 100% underground is doing what you think is right to do, do not think about fashion, popularity of music genre. Just doing everything what is the best for label and bands.”

Karol says that: „If we consider financial issues I am working as hard as I can to improve it. To let the label earn money itself. Sometimes it is better and sometimes worse. But I added some money from my other work to be with Selfmade God where I am now”. And at this point this label is both hobby and work for this guy. And words of gratitude should be even bigger when one will look at the numbers. Selfmade God is one man army! Karol does almost all just by himself! He just mentions Arne Kupetz (who does European promotion) and Dave Brenner (US promotion).

Selfmade God releases are available in many countries on whole wide world. This label has one of the biggest distribution one can see... Germany, Italy, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Belgium,

The Netherlands, United Kingdom, Spain, France, Scandinavia, USA, Brazil, Columbia, Canada, Japan...

There are three new releases coming March 9 2006: INCARNATED „Pleasure Of Consumption” CD, HERMAN RAREBELL „Too Late For Peace” 3”CD and AGATHOCLES „Mince Core History 1993-1996” CD.

You can check out news, discography, you can download some mp3's, order CDs at [www.SelfmadeGod.com](http://www.SelfmadeGod.com). Here is a link directly to the online store [www.shop.SELFMADEGOD.com](http://www.shop.SELFMADEGOD.com). And Myspace site: [www.Myspace.com/SelfmadegodRecords](http://www.Myspace.com/SelfmadegodRecords)

## DISCOGRAPHY:

SMG 024 Agathocles „Mince Core History 1993-1996” CD

SMG 023 Herman Rarebell „Too Late For Peace” 3”CD

SMG 022 Incarnated „Pleasure Of Consumption” CD

SMG 021 Antigama „Zeroland” CD

SMG 020 Wojczech „Sedimente” CD

SMG 019 Catheter „Dimension 303” CD

SMG 018 Third Degree „Outstay” CD

SMG 017 Security Threat „The Truth Is Out” CD

SMG 016 Antigama „Discomfort” LP

SMG 015 Antigama „Discomfort” CD

SMG 014 Sewn Shut „Rediscovering The Dead” CD

SMG 013 Shackled Down „The Crew” CD

SMG 012 Toxic Bonkers „Seeds Of Cruelty” CD

SMG 011 Antigama / Third Degree / Herman Rarebell 3way split CD

SMG 010 Catheter / Fubar split CD

SMG 009 Unholy Grave / Third Degree split 7”

SMG 008 My Minds Mine „48 Reasons To Leave This Planet” CD

SMG 007 Neopathia „Graveyard Cowboys” CD

SMG 006 Rzeznia „Mathematic Grind” CD

SMG 005 Catheter „Preamble To Oblivion” CD

SMG 004 Hewhocorrupts / Third Degree split 7”

SMG 003 Agathocles „Mince Core History 1985-1990” CD

SMG 002 Selfhate „At The Beginning God Created Fear” CD

SMG 001 Agathocles „Mince Core History 1989-1993” CD

[www.SELFMADEGOD.com](http://www.SELFMADEGOD.com)

SELFMADEGOD

# UMNSCOLUMNSCOLUMNSCOLUMNSCOLUMNSCOL SCOLUMNSCOLUMNSCOL UMNSCOLU

## HARDCORE MANIFESTO

When I started to write this column, it really got me thinking about what exactly it is about HARDCORE that I love. Sure there is the music, but that goes without saying. I could sit and write an epic piece about all the bands and the impact that they have had on me over the years.

I could tell a story about the first Agnostic Front album (it was my first hardcore record) that I bought, and the impact that it had on me as a young and impressionable "kid". But wouldn't that be a little redundant? After all we all had that moment. And for a lot of people it was an awakening of sorts. But after a long and drawn out thought process I decided to hit on a topic that is in my mind a little more important. Not just for myself but for the scene. The word UNITY, comes up all too often in the scene. In my mind it has almost become dogmatic. Much to the same point as let's say the Ten Commandments. We all know not to steal or have sex with our neighbors wives or what ever but we do it anyway...

We pass it off as being some archaic rule. Much the same way as the idea of UNITY. For so many people in our scene, they preach and they jump up on a soapbox yelling the words at the top of their lungs. Screaming about supporting "their scene". But at the end of the day they are the first ones to start talking shit about this person or that person. They are the people that are into the scene because maybe at one point in time they felt disenfranchised, and someone showed them the HARDCORE life style. Unfortunately they took it as a style more than anything else. They figured just because they threw on a Record or CD they were HARDCORE.

It's people like this that create rifts in our scene. For a moment think about the Hip Hop "scene" (I'm making a broad generalization here). In the States it's East coast versus West coast. It's one gang against another. And in my eyes it's always going to be that way. In my eyes that "scene" is about a lifestyle that revolves around materialism (the cars, the clothes, the gold, the grills etc). It's a "scene" that is saying, "we grew up being oppressed in slums and look at us now" it's a scene that glorifies shooting a person because he "disrespected" you.

How different is that from our scene? Well I'm going to tell you. There is a chance that most of the people in our scene have come from a middle class to poverty stricken family. But our scene is about more than clothes and jewelry. Unfortunately there are rivalries within our own scene but more times than not we chose to ignore them. It's not all that often you hear

about one of us shooting our own. Sure we may fight but... We are not killing each other.

The real point that I'm making here is... Now before it's too late. Let's stop talking about UNITY... Let's start showing some. Let's get out there and support the bands.

Support other people and come together as a scene...

### man - i - fes - to

**NOUN:** A public declaration of principles, policies, or intentions, especially of a political nature

It's not about something you heard on a record, or read in a magazine...

It's not "I'm more hardcore than that guy", or our scene is better than that one...

It's East coast meeting West coast  
Canada meeting the States...

All with the same purpose and goals

It's realizing that this is our entire scene...

It's saying that we hold true the principle of unity  
And our scene is only as strong as all of us together united...

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## CHILDISH ANGER MANAGEMENT

What the fuck could I write about? About what could somebody like me write who's fooling around half of the day and is fucking pissed the other half? I mean, I'm 22 now, some of my former classmates I went to school with have already children, have finished university, have good jobs, earn lots of money, marry...what the fuck?! Sometimes I think I'm a fucking kid any more. But not such a cool kid like in all those Hardcore songs, but somebody who can't get his shit together, who doesn't know what to do later in his life anyway. I mean, I don't know what to do after university. OK, many don't know, but I haven't the slightest clue. I don't know with what kind of job I want to earn my money someday. All that I love, my girlfriend, my friends, music, that's all things I can't make money off. I mean, of course I could earn my money with music, there are too many who sell out and do so, selling out every inch of idealism and play mainstream metalcore, sign fucking pop-bands on their label, book tours with unpayable conditions.

That's nearly the only way of making real money for a living out of Hardcore (if you're not playing in Sick Of It All...). So, do I want to do a real job anyway? Getting sucked dry by the system I somehow try to resist? Are there even opportunities to avoid that? I take a look at my parents, I love my parents, but all they do is work all day long, six days a week, just to go on holidays for

four days a year. And they did this for almost 30 years now. Just to offer me the chance to go on university and have an easier life than them. I'm really thankful for that, and can't express in words what they mean to me, but I wouldn't live that way. Really? When I visit them, they are so happy. They almost seem like the happiest persons I know. They know each other well enough so they don't have to argue all day long, one cares for the other one. I hope I will be that mature some day...

But right now I have to think about other things. Like I said, right now I'm angry... I can't help myself, but there are so many things that make me angry. That already starts with all that typical Hardcore - bullshit. For example, all those so called tough guy bullshit, that has nothing to do with Hardcore the way I see it. 90% of "metalcore", most of the time boring, uninspired, silly and played by guys who don't know how to play real metal, so they call it "metalcore". Or, even worse, all those always crying, always depressed bands that try to sound like Modern Life Is War or American Nightmare. I'm glad I have my own band where I can write songs against all that crap. But then, another reason to be angry, our drummer doesn't get his shit together either. One day he hasn't too much time to rehearse, the other day he's away, the next day he forgets his stuff in his hometown, blablabla. I mean, he's really nice guy, a really chill dude, but I can't stand it when I can't rehearse...besides my Fanzine, the band's my main "Hardcore - participation". What leads me to the next point, the zine. It's so hard these days to get people buy your Fanzine if you don't feature the five most up-to-date-us-hardcore-bands. It's hard to get advertising to finance the print. It's hard to find cool distros. It's hard to please all those pseudo-intellectual "no fanzine without 120 pages of political content" wise-asses. But what the fuck, to be angry is maybe the best reason to listen to Hardcore, to build something positive out of it. Like one of my teachers once said, life's one of the hardest, keep it up, xxx, Chris

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## ANNIE'S COLUMN

It was to be completely different. When I was asked to write a column to this zine, I had some ideas to write something nice and pleasant, without anger and complaining. I'm afraid I failed. Not because I'm always complaining, but unfortunately a few days ago my boyfriend got an e-mail with some questions to his project-band to be interviewed. An innocent mail, an innocent interview, nothing special, just to get more people know about some HC band from Poland. Can you

# COLUMNS

see anything wrong in it, so far?

I hadn't seen anything wrong, either until I read what this interview was to be about. First of all, it was to be funny. OK, being funny is what I like and funny zines or views are also something pleasant to read. What was my surprise when I read that a person interviewing a band was interested in such things – do they prefer clean shaved or hairy cunts (he prefers the second option)? Do they prefer tits of a woman I don't remember the name or another one whose name I don't remember, either (probably I would keep it in my mind forever if I saw the part of the body that fascinates him so much) and is there anything apart from girls that keep the band around.

HA, HA, HA, very funny. Actually I know million of other ways of expressing something in a funny way, but why to play with sex, or rather sexism when there is a need to be cool? Why it has to be offensive? Probably the guy who wrote it wanted to be controversial. Breaking the cliché of thousand similarly looking interviews and zines maybe? I don't know if it was his only motivation. If it was only about being controversial, then the goal has been achieved. But it's not worth applause, anyway. However I'm conscious of the fact that sexism in HC scene is nothing unusual, I also try to think that it's far away from me, and even if people that surround me sometimes say or do something stupid or insulting to me or other girls, I would rather think that generally they are not sexist or don't want to behave like that. Probably it was my mistake that I thought so.

When I read these questions I immediately felt anger, fury and great disappointment. I couldn't realize how it is possible. Firstly, it was offensive to all the girls involved in the hardcore scene. I know that not all the girls here should be feminist or even conscious of what being treated in such way really means, but on the other hand, in my opinion HC/punk scene should be a place where people respect others. It sounds a bit idealistic, but if the scene still pretends to be a part of a counterculture or some kind of post counterculture, then rejection of sexism or even trying not to play with it is a logical step. And please don't tell me that the scene has had nothing in common with criticism against mass culture, since we can see a few HC clips on TV and since fans of Avril Lavigne look like if they were taken straight from HC gig. I'm fed up with such arguments and I believe that loads of people are still here because of this reason – the element of criticism is a part of it, even if not all the bands, zines, etc. have to use it to communicate with their audience. It's not obligatory to criticize, and also to be serious all the time, but I can't understand why there have to be tits and cunts to make something catchier or more readable.

Who the hell gave the right to the interviewer to use girls' bodies in this way? From whom he has the right to suggest that girls are the cause of playing music or having the band? Besides, the question was partly about me, which I can't stand, either. Last but not least, it was offensive to the band, too. If, to be nice and funny, the band decided to answer this interview and it was printed, and if I read something like this, I would be totally disappointed not only with the zine, but also with the band. I would think that these guys have to be quite assholes to decide to promote their band in such way. I suppose that most of the people who will read such a zine are not fans of "Playboy" or even "Bravo" so what's the point in doing something in its convention? I know that there are some people (mostly men) who

would be really contented with such a zine and such interviews. These men usually hate the "f" word and think that I'm exaggerating and that I always can make a zine where I'll be asking about dicks or something. OK, but I simply don't want to be like that. My existence and the existence of other girls in the scene is not about our bodies, or not only about them, to counter the attack of some philosophers who would probably tell me, that we are physically here, so that our bodies are. I don't want to be the voice of all the girls, but to make it clear I must assure you Mr. zinemaker that I'm not only tits and a cunt. Sorry, but your hard core is not mine any more. XannieX

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## BELIEVE OR NOT TO BELIEVE?

I think I have never written column or something that can be compared to it. I have never been in to writing diaries or stuff like that. I just didn't like to express my feelings by pen and sheet of paper. I don't know why... it just was that way. But now it has changed a bit and I think I am ready to do it. I just wanted to make a point about how one man can change. As one can see I have changed my way towards columns. I want to say that lately I noticed that lots of my friends or people I just see from time to time and who I don't regard as friends changed a lot. I know that we all can be changed under some circumstances and this is true. I can understand that when somebody is pointing gun at us we can do things we would never do without this gun near our face. But I don't understand why people who do not have any gun, knife or even spoon near face change his/hers believes...It's for me something that I will never understand. I tried to do it but it is too hard for me...I think so! It is too hard. For many people it is easy to understand. "Hey he was not drinking for last 2-3 years, give him a brake, he has lots beer (or maybe other kind of shit...) and I am not talking just about the alcohol but also about drugs!) to drink for all those years of abstinence". I do not understand why people who believed in straight edge just give it up after some time. I think that those people were not convinced with these rules. They have chosen this way of life cause they needed some kind of "new chapter" in their lives. But if one doesn't believe truly in something it is very easy to close this chapter. And start another one or go back to previous one. That is very sad but I can't force anyone to do something against his/hers believes. This is not what sxe is about. I hope that all kids who were straight edge at some age and are not now will rethink why they give it up. And was that worth it?

XadamX

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## STOP, LOOK & LISTEN

"The last couple of years made me realize a few new things about what living alternative lifestyle to the mainstream culture means to me. For years I have thought that being a radical high school kid is the furthest I could ever get with experiencing this path, but as I grew older things changed. Things have changed because everything around changed. Yes, I hear you "What the fuck did you expect?". But it was easy to judge and hold in contempt all the institutions and social rules when I did not

have to care about surviving, because my mother would take care of it from whatever she got paid and benefits we received. It was pretty easy to turn my back to everything I detested when I was secured from directly getting involved and dealing with it. On the other hand it was hard to break out of this mindless circle and walk my own path, but it became even more challenging and real when most of the young people around me started to fill all the positions to keep the machine, so disliked by me running. I was laughing at money making white collars when unexpectedly my classmates took these roles after their fathers and became something that I was and am so discouraged by... Today I still find myself being disgusted when it comes to certain social expectations and lies, but I also find myself being drawn into it at the same time. I have to participate more in unwilling but unavoidable support of the machine. All this basic stuff may involve making many decisions that make me see things in a bit different way... So what social roles are there for you and me? I don't think we will ever fit in, and then why should we? I feel like for me this is still the same beliefs and lifestyle, only it's just getting harder to sustain it when you are being challenged by everything that starts to make up your life as an adult. More often there is a compromise on the horizon that just makes you uncomfortable when you decide on something not entirely going along your old lines. I thought that my old ways were the real deal for me and wouldn't change. They were important but they did change a little bit. Today I just keep quiet when I meet someone from the past years and am asked about whom I work for and what career I'm pursuing. I don't expect anyone to understand me and my decisions, as for the most part it was suppose to be just kids rebelling against their parents and teachers. When you grow up you are suppose to leave it and just take your part in running the machine. If you don't, you probably are even weirder and more confused than 10 years ago and just cause pity in your grown friends' eyes. I have always respected people that were in the scene at the age of 30 or somewhere around it. Today I'm beginning to realize that these must be truly dedicated people. To be involved into HC when you have to take care of lots of other "life" things may be really difficult and give you a perfect reason for dropping it and keeping good memories for yourself. Starting a family, getting settled etc. are perfectly natural things and may really take over your life, probably one day not even giving a minute to check out what's new going on among people who helped me so much to realize my own potential. And I'm so stoked to see so many of them still being around! I'd like to think as well that I have remained faithful to the ideas that changed my life so radically, even though that it's still progressing. At least that's how it feels.

I dedicate this to all the worn out trainers, washed off t-shirts and patched jackets that are not going into the closets, but are still worn and visible around!"

R.

Contact R. through The Heat Zine!

## ALL ROADS LEAD EASTWARDS

This is some rant of my personal experiences in the eastern European countries that I've visited with Bands or on my own.

Well I think my personal affection for eastern European

countries notably the Czech Republic and Poland started when I was attending the Fluff Fest in Plzen for the first time. The festival location was in an old Park or something like that and the stage was inside a 2 floored building. That was probably in 2002 if I remember correctly. To me it was awesome to see all the people from everywhere in Europe getting together at some place in the Czech Republic, hanging out, having fun and eating food all day. That may sound trivial, but the atmosphere was like a summer camp and everyone was enjoying themselves. Unlike bigger hardcore festivals in Germany the entrance fee was affordable for everyone and not just the rather wealthy Western European kids. So besides the good geographic location because of that it's the only real European hardcore fest and is also one of the last festival with a true day spirit. Whereas Tomas and his friends that help him give a really good example that DIY doesn't have anything to do with unprofessional acting or something like that. The whole fest is run professionally as any other fest maybe with even more routine without losing its spirit. That's why this weekend every year is something special as it's THE place to meet friends from everywhere.

So this is one of the reasons why I started to get some special connection towards the East.

I first visited Poland in 2003. I was helping out a band and drove their van, because at that time I was friends with them and for me it was a nice opportunity to visit a country I've never been to before and where I probably wouldn't have had the chance to visit it so soon.

Yes and I smelled adventures and had all that romantic feelings you have when it comes down to road trips, that unexpected things happen, that you come home with a lot of stories to tell.

There we were at the train station in Zgorzelec, waited for Adrian from Faust Again who should guide us on the 3 day trip throughout Poland. Zgorzelec is the polish counterpart of the German town Goerlitz. Two towns only separated by a river. And nowhere can you see the optical differences as clear as there. The old city in the German part is completely rebuilt and renovated where on the other hand the polish part is in rather bad condition. This river feels like a gap between poor and rich.

Well onto more stories on the road. At around ten Adrian arrived, we jumped in the van. First show is in Nowy Targ a town somewhere in South Poland rather close to the Slovak and Czech border. About 500 kms to go, at least that's what the map said. OK, the highway is not fully completed on the whole distance but there's about 200 km highway and the rest is just plain streets. Shouldn't be too much of a problem. But yes, Polish streets proved us wrong... the most bumpiest road I have ever traveled, during the time we were on the rural road it felt like driving on rails because there were such slots in the asphalt that when you started overhauling another car, the van bounced like 2 times to get on the other lane and then another 2 times when you drove back on your side. Oh yeah and if there's a little bit more space on the road than for 2 cars then every little inch of the road gets used. OK so we were there on some really bad roads but luckily the highway was soon to be there, so everyone was looking forward to some better road because the asses started to hurt, but when I drove onto the highway I was taught that maps can definitely lie. I think this highway was definitely Second World War style, concrete plates fixed together with tar. Awesome, the fully loaded van, was going like dadak,dadak, and everyone woke up and screamed what the hell I was doing. So we continued driving and driving and somewhere near Cracow there was a real newly built highway which lasted only for about 100 kms. And finally after about 9.5 hrs driving we arrived at the club in Nowy Targ. First lesson in polish style. After the show packing up and then on into the polish night for a 600 km drive to Adrian's hometown. So after a night of driving and the second sunrise in the van we arrived in this city at around 10.00 after about 10 hrs of driving. Always remember in Poland every Kilometer you drive feels like 2 or 3 so you better start calculating. Oh yes and during the night nobody cares if there's something like a tempo limit, no 70 is the minimum in a city so better watch out. Considering the roads that was the most memorable stuff. But the crowd at every show was really into it and was really outgoing so that it was really nice for everyone. That was also the first time I met Adam and Feel, with who I stayed in touch since now, especially with Adam. OK but let's get back to the story. The special thing was that Adam knew that even if he would sell out the show he wouldn't get enough money to compensate the band, and so he and some friends saved some money and put it together to pay the gas money for the band. The bands there also helped each other out with equipment on a rather regular basis. Quite often bands share one rehearsal room, which is also common here, but not every musician has his own equipment and so it's normal that one band has a drum kit which gets used by all bands, the other has a bass amp and so

on. I never experienced something like that in Germany. So I think what I learned there that what we would compensate with our money gets there done by social connections. It made me think if our wealth makes us lose or at least not as much on personal connections but that's just a thought that crossed my mind right now.

The next trip I did in spring 2004 and the most memorable event was definitely visiting Auschwitz on a really cold, nasty and wet winter day. It's indescribable but the weather fit perfectly to that place.

Through these trips and another visit in February 2005 I think it's always something special for me to go there. Through going there I lost the prejudices that basically everyone has, some more and some less, but I made great friends there and that's really awesome and all of that just because of getting in the van in search of adventures.

LB

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## SUNSET

I wanted to write a column about my last column about something totally different but in last week something has happened. Something big has happened. Sun will rise just one more time! I am talking about one of the best Polish/European bands around. I am talking about almighty SUNRISE. They decided to break up after 11 years of existing on the so called hardcore scene. As they wrote it in the final statement: "It has been a while and we came to the point where we are pretty happy with the shape of the band but in the very same time we realize that we won't go much further and can easily get frustrated, as lives of some of us are not that careless anymore." I can understand that it was harder and harder to join working with playing in the band. I know how hard it is to be a part of the scene where not all people are your friends. I just hoped that they will always be on the scene, playing shows, recording CDs. Thanks to this band I became vegan and I know that I owe them fuckin a lot. And probably not just me! This was the band that I remember from my first HC shows when they were young band with their first LP called "Generation Of Sleepwalkers". Shit that CD is totally crazy, I love it! Check it out if you do not know it! I have seen them so many times but after their shows I had this feeling inside. It is hard to describe, but I think their live shows gave me the strength. Strength to prevail through good and bad times. I remember when I was listening to the "Child Of Eternity" for the 1<sup>st</sup> time I thought that I am this fuckin Child. Music was great but HC is not just music it is also something behind...message. And Sunrise beside great music had always something to say. Not just in the lyrics, interviews, flyers...but also from the scene. I remember many people were laughing from Pat when he was talking about drug free, sxe, vegetarianism/veganism, about living our lives our way. But there were just few people laughing most of the people were listening. This band forced us all to think not just about ourselves but





about everything that is all around us! All hours spent listening to their music, watching them on the scene, talking with them...these are unforgettable memories. Sunrise will always be in my heart. This band was something special! That was the best hardcore band from Poland. And I just count the days to their last show on 23<sup>rd</sup> of April...we will be "still walking with fire".

XadamX

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### LOOK AT THIS MESS

Look at all this mess. Look at what we've created. And compare it with what it was supposed to be, what it was meant to be. And still, we scream for change. In a way, we're even obsessed it with change. But what is this change? And a change for what? I've been here for too long I guess, because the change I see is only a word that fits right in your sing along chorus.

I have no regrets. I gave it my best shot, and I got a lot in return. Yet I can't help but feel disappointed. Think of the ways we treat each other. Think of the ways we let each other down. Take a moment and think of the ways we all (as a group, not necessarily as individuals) became what we hate. Oh, is that too much of a word? Well, I hate all this nonsense, and that's for sure. It hits me really hard whenever I realise that hardcore is in fact a counter-revolutionary movement. It is not a vehicle for transformation (or was I so fucking naive to believe that in the first place?), but rather a self-serving creation with no real desire or need for translating all this anger into anything else than collectors edition vinyl, ego tripping message boards and all that crap.

The moment is here. A freeze frame with about 60 or 70 people going off their fucking heads. There's energy in the air, and there's passion in the hearts. Four kids stage dive at the same time, the singer lost his microphone but the words punch through the speakers - with the voices of six or seven people grabbing the mike from each other, knowing the lyrics by heart, and screaming their lungs out.

But what happens next? What happens when we go home? When we go back to work, go back to school, go back to the real world...? Where does the energy go, where does the anger disappear and where is that overpowering feeling of being "all we can be" lost? And why is it lost - why?

I want to go beyond all that. And I want to leave a lot of it behind, too. This thing we got here, the community, the kids, the bands, the music, the shows - it's all not that unique, you know. I want to stress how this is important, but also how I don't see this as a bad thing at all.

Today's culture and society seem to embrace "the individual" - you have to stand out, you have to stand apart, you have to "be yourself". On top of that, our hardcore background always emphasised similar values. Just read random hardcore song lyrics and chances are you'll come across it all straight away - "no defiance, no surrender, standing tall and being proud". Can you see the common denominator?

(In exactly the same way, we say we reject stereotype, but all we do is we just fit in with another stereotype. We think we act against the stream, but we're knee high in another stream that we don't even see...)

We're just too busy - busy with being hardcore, busy with being individuals, busy with the never ending struggle. And that's kind of "OK", in a sense that's not very different from what the rest of the world is doing, as I wrote above - this is not unique at all. But one thing really bothers me, it really fucks me up, drains my breath and slows my heart. This is what it's all about, so pay attention - we're too busy looking at the signs. We're too busy staring at the fucking pointers. We're too content with discovering the map. We're too excited about seeing the road.

And so we never go the way those signs show us, we never actually look at the way the pointer is pointing, we just stare at the fucking thing (what good is a "song about change"?). We are so happy to discover the map, we don't even want to see for ourselves where it takes us, we're so excited about seeing the road, we don't even remember to set out on the journey.

Ch. F. Xavier

Contact Ch. F. Xavier through **The Heat Zine!**

### SXE MEANS I'M BETTER THAN YOU...

What a fucking bullshit. Nobody should care whether someone is Straight Edge or not. As much as I think these narrow minded morons should start to think before judging anyone as much do I insist that being straight edge doesn't turn you into a mindless puppet that just continually recites some lines that were written 20 years ago.

Yes and even if I'm not preachy about being vegetarian anymore, just because I'm fed up by stupid discussions, I still think this is a more serious issue, because this lifestyle definitely affects living beings and this is something that is not as present anymore as it was maybe 5 years ago. And when it becomes rather

common that there's no vegan food around anymore at shows and it's becoming rather exotic to care about lives of living beings not as strong as we are. But I think none of these Lifestyles neither Straight Edge nor veganism / vegetarianism make us better people if we simply apply these criteria on every human we meet. I think this is the main statement, it doesn't make you any better if you don't care about other humans as well and in rather "extreme" lifestyles like for example Veganism there's quite a lot people that somehow compensate their own weakness by posing around with their attitude. Just like a shield to save them from their own personal problems. (And I mean extreme not in the way "how hard it is to be vegan"). Don't get me wrong, because I am in no way against veganism, this is just something that I experienced with a rather small amount of people.

Among these people you find very often the separation into good and bad people, those vegan and those non-vegan. So my point is that even though it's a very important topic it shouldn't be transformed into a religion, because following certain rules and applying them on your world and dividing the world in black and white is maybe just too simple and it's exactly what is criticized by HC kids considering organized religion. And don't get me wrong I don't want to turn down any vegans, my stance is about the tolerance because a vegan who doesn't respect the life of other humans is in my eyes no better than the person he judges. Just like those people that are now talking about Straight Edge revenge. For me this is an example of turning something positive in the opposite direction. But let's get back to the initial topic. Who has never been judging someone who was smoking or drinking beer just because (s)he didn't share the same lifestyle. But as when you grow older, I think you should come to the point where you shouldn't divide the world into black and white anymore because I definitely met SXE people that to me were the greatest scum on earth that don't have anything on their mind and yes indeed you meet the greatest people who are not straight edge obviously. I just write this even though it may sound simple but when I was younger it disgusted me seeing people around me getting drunk and acting like idiots. I'm still not so easy with that kind of behavior but I have more this state of mind now that I don't care about these criteria. The main reasons for me to stay sober apart from not liking any kind of alcoholic substances is probably that I like the idea that I can rely more on someone, rely in the way of that when you talk to this person, all you said will probably be remembered. Everything you say will reach this person in a conscious state. Not in the sense of not being to rely in personal life or what so ever. This is probably the reason why I never got interested in doing any drugs, smoking or drinking. The fact I couldn't be in control of myself was something that I definitely didn't want to experience.

Another thing about Straight Edge that made me think was an interview with Bruno from New Winds in Heartattack 46, where he said Straight Edge was politics and it's necessary to write about politics and not only about the usual hardcore issues like friendships, just these ordinary things. I can understand his point of view but obviously I have a little different view :)

Probably everyone has experienced being let down by somebody you trusted and I think almost everyone

cared more about people than they did about you so if I'm going through this kind of hard times a song about this might touch me a lot more than any song about a rather abstract political issue.

Some of these songs just described what I felt, just showed me it's not only me, no there's more people and they all experience the same shit as I do. This is the kind of solace that you need in such situations. Not a complex topic you have to embrace with your intellect and which doesn't rather touch your emotions.

Obviously other issues also have to be talked about but I think the thing about hardcore for me is that personal level, that makes it so special for me. That you not only go to shows because of the music and the bands but it's rather more about the people and the time you want to share with friends that makes this special. The fact that bands are just regular people when they go off the stage and that the "stardom" of persons is not so often found like in mainstream music. That you can get really easily in touch with people from everywhere just because there's this invisible thing that makes you all the same. I met almost all the best people I know through hardcore and that's why it's so special for me, oh yes and I also met the worst through it, but I still like it...

Now I got totally off of the initial topic but that doesn't matter.

LB

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## I HATE DRUNKEN DRIVERS...

I had a cousin. He was my friend. He was a cool guy. He introduced me to whole punk scene and he showed me vegetarianism. He opened my mind, eyes, and ears to new issues. He taught me how not to give up too easily. He told me to be strong in every moment of my life. And that I should choose my own destiny, my own path. I should create my own life the way I want it. I should not listen to anyone else in choosing what is the best for me. I should just listen to my inner voice. He taught me everything I am now. He showed me my first punk shows. He gave me Sex Pistols, The Clash, The Exploited, Bad Brains music. He told me to be careful with alcohol, cigarettes and drugs. He was a fuckin' good man. I love him. And I have one more thing to say. He told me to create my own destiny...but his was not chosen by him. He was killed by a drunken driver. "Where is justice? Where is punishment? Here! In me!"

XadamX

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## THOUGHTS OF A NIGHT DRIVER

Everyone knows this feeling, when you've been to a show, you screamed your lungs out, you felt the magic of words and music create some intense emotion that bursts out of you. The energy that pumps up your adrenaline, that makes you scream louder and louder, that makes you part of something special, that makes you feel "it". This insane feeling that makes you perceive everything in a blur. It comes back, all these pictures, when you're driving through the night, pushed, scratched up, with aching throat. This is when you have time to think about what you just experienced, this rush you went through, that left you exhausted but also full of energy. This rush that makes you realize why you do it, why you still keep on

spending hours on highways, shredding kilometer after kilometer just to see your favorite band, just to feel "it" again. Of course it's also because of your friends, but every time you've been to a show that was special, you know there's more than just hanging out with your friends. You recharge your energy for everything life puts in your way, you just have to save this energy on your way home, you just have to avoid wasting that energy for staying awake.

LB

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## WHAT HAPPENED TO LASSIE?

Just about every household product found on the shelves of a supermarket today, contains within its history contributions to animal cruelty. In the last couple of decades or so, technology has come a long way and even though other alternatives to animal testing exist, a lot of huge corporations have not yet switched to an animal-free method of testing their products. Corporations claim different benefits from animal testing but are these benefits worth the lives of defenseless creatures? These lives which can be saved, merely by spending an extra amount of time to find other methods of testing.

A large variety of products are tested on animals everyday, from lotions, shampoos and soaps, to medicines cosmetics and cleaning products. These include so many products that humans use on a routine basis, and sadly if the product does not have a symbol with a rabbit crossed out on it and a disclaimer stating "produced without animal testing and with no animal by-products," chances are that product was used on an animal, or hundreds of animals, for experimentation. These products are introduced to animals in a cruel manner, for some animals will be shaven and products will be applied to their skin, and rabbits and mice may have their eyes filled with foreign chemicals to test what it might do if accidentally received by a human eye. These pets of science are fed products, products that aren't meant for eating but products that contain high levels of toxin, and this is done to record side affects and data in the defense of human health. Rabbits and mice are not the only creatures being used for tests; monkeys, birds, dogs, and cats are all also used. This hits a little closer to home, for cats and dogs are two of our greatest companions in the animal kingdom. No other animals across the world are relied on more, to be home waiting loyally for the return of their caretaker, their friend. It is hard to imagine a dog locked in a tiny cage for its entire life and only kept just barely alive so that it may be shaved, lathered, probed, and injected. All though these things are horrible, they are done for the sake of our "safety."

Many pro-animal-researchers will say that using small animals is cheaper and more cost efficient, but the truth is that animal research is expensive. Replicated human material that resides in a test tube does not need to be fed twice a day, nor does it need its excrement thrown away. Someone has to get paid to do this job and the food fed to the animals has to be bought with someone's money. It's not just food, water, and maintenance for one or two animals that has to be paid for. Usually anywhere from fifteen to two hundred animals are kept within a couple months time. And to cut back on costs of maintaining animal

life and conserve space, testing facilities only provide the bare minimum to sustain life. The average habitat consist of a small cages stacked on top of each other, depending on the animal mostly in the cases of dogs and rabbits. The cage is so small that there is rarely room to turn around. Using methods for testing like, Skintex costs less and consumes less space.

So, animal testing is expensive, how about its effectiveness? It turns out some side effects pass right through animals but affect humans, thus products must be taken off of shelves. This is due to the difference in physiology in animals and in humans. Humans and animals have different genetic make ups so certain things may affect animals that don't affect humans and some things may not affect animals that do affect humans. This provides false feed back on a product. It also allows products that have been tested that may be harmful to be put into the consumers' hands, yet other products that may not be harmful may be scrapped in the testing process. Physiological difference alone leaves animal testing unreliable.

As more compassionate citizens of the planet, humans should be trying to protect and preserve animal life. Millions of animal's lives are sacrificed in the name of science and in the name of money every year. The past cannot be changed, and although it can be argued that animal testing has helped make some scientific advances in the past, new and effective technology is available for our use so there is no longer a necessity to torture and destroy innocent animal life.

Evan

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Originally I did this Interview for [Silentstagnation.com](http://Silentstagnation.com). It was published last year in summer 2005 to spread the word about Fluff Fest and give Tomas who is the spokesperson of the fest and the main-organizer, the possibility to share some of his thoughts and give us a little bit of deeper info about the fest. As I think that the answers that I got back are very good, I thought that it should be republished here because it's pretty much timeless what Tomas said and obviously we can support the Fluff Fest in that way. At this Fluff Fest we also came up with the idea of doing this zine, so this fest is something really special to us. So in any case you should meet Adam and me at the 7th edition from 21st-23rd of July in Rokycany near Pilsen in Czech Republic. So finally here's what Tomas has to say.



**So who's the crew / people behind the fluff fest. give us a short introduction and what you are responsible for.**

A crew? Well, we are just 2 kids taking care of this festival throughout the year, plus during the actual weekend we have some friends helping out plus lots of people who decide to help out with certain things in exchange for free entrance. so basically it's me and Michal. Unfortunately Michal is busy with other things this year, so I am kinda taking over. Sure there are some friends helping out throughout the year with some html stuff, English translations etc. or later in summer before and during the fest, helping with promotion by spreading flyers, etc etc...

**How long is the festival running already?**

This will be the 6th edition. We started in summer 2000.

**When did you have the idea to set up this festival? How many people were involved in the beginning?**

Well, I remember exactly how the idea came about. It was a friend of mine who first spoke about organizing something big so people from far away would travel to our town, because there was no scene back home and we just wanted to have shows here as well. We were hanging out at a DIY venue (some guys from our hometown were renting a really nice venue which used to be an open air swimming pool and organized some parties there, mostly techno and that dance music crap, but it was the only DIY place around and it was so beautiful there near the river with lots of grass, trees, places to hang out, etc...) and came up with the idea of organizing a hardcore weekend there which would attract people to travel to our shitty town. Me and my friend Michal were totally into this idea even if that friend quickly lost enthusiasm :). So we did it and our dream came true.

**What is the original idea behind the fest? Did you want to spread a certain message?**

It's a hard question. It really depends how you look at it. There are no specific messages, but there is also a really strong message at the same time. It's just because your everyday life has a certain idea or message even if you are not trying to promote any particular idea. I mean the only thing we are trying to do (not only with the festival, but with everything

we do, because our lives are just really connected with this hardcore/punk scene) is to show the world that it can work. To prove that there can be some kind of alternative in this world. And this alternative can work. And we don't need anything else the mainstream world is offering us and we don't need to sell ourselves everyday, because we are able to build our own world based on our own principles. There are lots of kids all over the world with the same point of view, so let's just meet and cooperate... You know what I mean? For example I don't want to say we're trying to promote veganism as a certain idea of the fest. But simply there is only vegan food in the kitchen so it's more like people should come for the weekend and when they leave they realize that they only had vegan food the whole time and it worked. They just experienced for themselves that they did not miss anything while they had vegan food for the whole weekend and it could have a better impact on people than to read from our website how good it is to be vegan. Veganism is just an example.

**Why is it called fluff? Is there a special meaning behind the name?**

It's a very special meaning, but it's a secret :)

**There's also a lot of other activities besides the bands. And it's not just distros and food but also stuff like a zine archive and showing underground movies ( like the lost film fest). When and why did you decide to add these features?**

Because the main thing about this whole hardcore scene is to realize that it's not about playing heavy music and having the right record collection at daddy's house. I just refuse to be a "weekend-punk kid". I don't want to live my ordinary life like our coworkers or schoolmates do and once in a while put on my chokehold t-shirt and go to a hardcore gig. Not because I think kids who do that are less hardcore than other kids, but just because this scene has so much to give and needs us to be creative to keep it up - don't let it die and don't let it become another music style. I mean I need to live hardcore in every aspect of my life. Not only to listen to hardcore music (well, most of the CDS I play in my Discman are not hardcore ones, but whatever...). We also need to have fun, need to travel, need to read, need to watch movies, need to have relationships, need to do our hobbies, need to cook and eat, need to sleep, need to fill our lives with beauty,

need to live our sexual life, need to have our moods, friends... and why should we look for these things in a "normal/mainstream" world instead of creating our own hardcore world? That's why I really appreciate it when hardcore kids do something different than playing 3-chord music. I mean I love lots of oldschool bands, but it's important to also have different things in this scene. Like I don't know, look at the band 'with love' - they play such terrible hippie and for me unlistenable music, but they care about this punk scene a lot by creating something different, also not only in music. Also art, skateboarding and stuff like that. I personally believe it's really important to keep this scene varied and creative. so yeah, I love organizing these non-music activities at the festival, because as I said before we are trying to prove that we can live hardcore, not only listen to it...

**Why are you moving the fest to different locations every year?**

It's simple, because nobody likes us :). Nobody wants that bunch of pierced and tattooed junkies at their place again :). So we keep trying and maybe one day we'll find people who we can work together with, people who will act fairly with us, like we are trying to do with them.

**Can you cover your costs by the entrance fees or do you have any sponsors?**

Yes, we can. so far we were never in debt. It's just because we are trying to keep our costs to a minimum. And it was pretty easy the first year or so, but it's getting harder now since the festival has grown into something bigger. We'll see. I hope we'll survive... We never had any sponsors, and we don't want to. I like to cooperate with other people, so in the past we had something like sponsorship from a few labels because we organized a skatecontest and a few hardcore labels sent us some records and merchandise which we passed on to the winners of this ollie skate contest. And of course we did some kind of advertisement for those labels - this ollie skate contest had its own flyers to invite people there to see it which we spread at the festival so there were a few logos of a few labels. I like it when people, labels, etc cooperate in this way. It's how it should be. By the way that skate contest was a blast. Lots of kids joined it and the things they did were unbelievable. The winner jumped over I think 7 decks! Also the response from the crowd was great. I

believe that morning something like 500 people showed up and watched and applauded the whole time... I really loved it!

**What are you doing besides organizing one of the coolest fests in Europe?**

At the moment I am searching for my right way to live. I am 27, I finished university, so I am a civil engineer. I got a job as a manager in a company. After a few months I quit it, because I had no time for the things I love. My parents thought I was lazy and I didn't want to work, which might be true, but whatever. At the moment I am preparing this festival, and believe me it takes shit loads of time. Also me and my friend Michal drive with some vans for several bands and agencies. That's the thing we are trying to live from. It's mostly some indie or metal bands, so we prepare the vans, drive for them, prepare the backline and stuff like that, just a service for booking agencies. Plus when we have some free time we are trying to do stuff like Michal's label or I do some clothes design - from t-shirts to socks or beanies - with straightedge logos, cause I am straightedge and still believe in this way of life :). I also used to do booking - I booked a few European tours for some bands, and I'm thinking about starting again...

**What is your current perception of the hardcore scene in general? What did change over the years in your view?**

to be honest I am really disappointed and sad what's going on in hardcore scene nowadays. Most of bands are trying to work together with music business, try to sign major label, try to play stupid big festivals with stupid big bands, also mainstream promoters and labels pay attention and try to work with "bigger"

hardcore bands. And I think at this point hardcore is losing its own unique place and unique way of existing, work, cooperation like it used to work some time ago. Take a look few years back, when I think with that internet boom kids were able to cooperate more and created network of collectives and kids who supported touring bands, here is also pretty good web of clubs, youth centers and some squats where is possible to set up smaller or bigger shows. And lots of those places work really well and on a high level. So I am SURE hardcore kids, bands or scene in general don't need any cooperation with mainstream society. That's the beauty of this scene, its independence or self-sufficiency. I really believe there is a big potential and it's up to us if we will create more and build this independent scene or will sell ourselves and become second rate commodity in mainstream music industry. At the moment mainstream bands are not that much "in" anymore and music industry is looking for something fresh attractive for young people. And if they take a look at hardcore well working network it is no wonder they are trying to sign hardcore bands for their labels, book hardcore bands for their shitty gigs, tours etc. But I really believe it's not a mark of quality or success for hardcore band to be support for some mainstream fest and play for crowd who don't give a fuck about your music and lyrics and feelings and have behind your back millions of advertisements for companies you're sick from instead of focusing on creating something by your own. For example what is worth on hardcore bands touring in night liners? Another weird mark of successful band. It just means that venues and promoters who used to help the band in the past won't be able to afford them and book them anymore, band will work not with kids who helped to build this unique

scene, but with some weird agencies who does not see difference between hardcore band and queen-cover band. Sorry, but I am not interested to visit show with band I like, but organized in weirdest venue in city by the agency which does not have an idea about any principles of this scene. Also I really don't think that sign major and become a second rate band on virgin will bring you more pleasure or even success than keep working with independent labels who can hit you back with more in-person approach and could offer you sometimes better care with layout, engineering and stuff at the end. So I really worry about the direction this scene is trying to go.

**What is your personal top 5 list of records?**

I don't have any TOP records, I have my moods and feed my different moods with different music. So my soundtrack depends on my mood mostly. I am really into heavy metal. I love Helloween, Hammerfall, Edguy, Manowar and that shit. This music is eternal for me.

**What is your personal top 5 list of shows you've ever been to (excluding the fluff fest :)?**

Firstly, I never have time to enjoy fluff fest, so it definitely was not my favorite gig ever :). I don't think I had some best gigs ever in my life. Sure, some gigs like Unbroken and all those old bands I used to go to like 12 or 13 years ago meant a lot for me, because it's something nostalgic for me, but I think now it's not about the bands who play, but about experiences. Sometimes you go to a gig where the band of your dream plays, but don't enjoy it there and sometimes you go to a local show or just a show with bands you don't like at all, but you meet some friends there, have different experiences and remember it for a long time. So my favorite gigs are gigs where I have the chance to



meet lots of friends, like ieper fest, etc...

**What's your view on the Czech Republic now being a part of the EU. Almost one year after the joining in may 2k4.**

People over here are the same bastards like before :). Well, it's kind of difficult. It has different impacts on different parts of society, different people, etc... We used to have that social friendly system of prices in the past back in communist times. It meant food was cheap, all social services were cheap, the health service free and stuff like electronics, cars and stuff were really expensive. What is definitely not the idea of capitalism, where they need to sell as much microwaves as possible so price of it is kinda friendly, but nobody supports your health service. So in general prices are getting higher and slowly are getting the same as in Western Europe. Also there are some quite hard restrictions against especially agricultural companies, because EU countries are trying to avoid confrontation with Eastern European agriculture based on cheap manpower. For example, the Czech Republic used to be big exporter of direct sugar and glucose, but now there are quotas for how much they can export and manufacture at all, so some of them are having hard times. But still there are lots of people including me who have hardly noticed that anything's changed, except they don't bother you at the borders so much like before.

**Do you have any funny stories if you look back at**

**the history of the fluff? Or maybe even strange ones :)**

I loved that guy in 2000 who obviously showed up there by accident, got drunk and after watching all the stage divers decided to go on stage during the reaching forward set, grab the microphone after one song and shout in Czech "so what? are you sleeping? let's go!" And jumped off the stage. I don't know if it was because he was very big, but nobody caught him so he fell on the floor and broke his foot really badly. So we moved him to the entrance and called an ambulance, but he did not care about his leg even though it was really badly hurt and kept saying "don't worry, give me some vodka and put my foot back in the right place and I can go back to the pit!". I know it's mean to laugh at him, but it was really funny, especially because reaching forward put out a tape as a complete discography where this live set is as well, so you can listen to this guy every time you listen to that tape... Also funny one was when in 2002 some guy who run the pub next to the festival place decided to make money by grilling sausages and sending them to kids. I was kinda mad with him and told him I don't want him to do that, but he was like "this place is ours, so fuck you". After few hours of flipping that 5 sausages and not selling single one he decided it probably won't be good business so he left. I am sure not all kids visiting the fest are veggies, but that time somehow nobody wanted his sausages...

**Why is the fest located in Plzen and not in Prague where you live?**

Because when we started the whole thing we had more connection to Pilsen, where my family is from and where Michal still lives. Now I don't have anything to do with Pilsen anymore, I don't even have any friends there I think. But still we keep doing the festival in that area, because it's just like that. Also I don't want to organize it in Prague. Pilsen is still a kinda small town and it's nice to see that town full of hardcore kids on that weekend. it's more fun in a smaller town...

**If you were to describe your opinion about the fest, how would you describe it to someone who has never heard of the fluff? What keeps you organizing this festival?**

It's not about the fest, but about the hardcore scene in general... The fest is only something like a place where you can create yourself. So if you like the hardcore scene, then go there because you can enjoy the atmosphere of the scene, you can hang out with other hardcore kids and realize how it is to "live" hardcore, not to "listen" to it. And it's not because of the festival, it's simply because you will be thrown in there for a few days and you will have no choice :) Love it or leave it. Handle this scene, with those kids or go the fuck home to watch TV if you realize it's not for you... That's what I love about it. But maybe I am wrong, maybe people feel it in a different way. Who knows...

**Thanks for answering my questions and see you at the fest!**

**REFUSE F**



**REFUSE RECORDS: HARDCORE**



**HIT ME BACK**  
Full length-  
new songs th  
lodic early 80  
hardcore parts  
Bus" ep as a b

**REFUSE RECORDS: HARDCORE KNOWS NO BORDERS**



**HIT ME BACK "Life" LP/CD**

Full length-release from this Los Angeles band. Thirteen brand new songs that have more influences of more anemic and melodic early 80's punk and hardcore, but still with fast and thrash hardcore parts. CD release contains songs from "Magic School Bus" ep as a bonus tracks (including Heresy cover).



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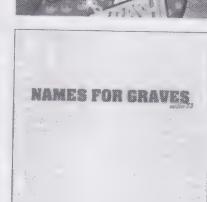
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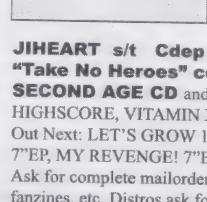
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**NAMES FOR GRAVES "Version 2.1" 7"EP**

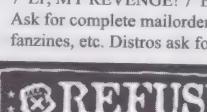
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(Germany) is a female fronted powerful blasting fast hardcore, having elements of old school hardcore with fast beats and melodic parts. Sweden) contains 6 songs of the

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I stumbled about an ad in some fanzine somewhere in late 2005. Well it was for Ritual's 7" called "One Foot In The Grave". So this somehow caught my attention and so i visited their myspace profile, listened to the song and that really struck me. These 4 dudes really knew how to rock and so i wanted more. I got in touch with Philipp their drummer and we had a really nice email conversation and when i got their 7", I didn't get disappointed. That's when i thought, that more people should hear of them, because in my eyes this band is one of the best upcoming bands from Germany.

**Hey Philipp! Tell us a little bit about Ritual... Who you are, how many people are you in the band, who's doing what and how long are you together in the band? Just the ordinary „Introduction question”...**

Ritual consists of 4 guys: Julian, he's the singer, Danny plays guitar, Kevin is handling the bass duties and me, I'm the drummer. We're from Recklinghause, that's at the northern border of the Ruhrpott area. We're together since autumn 2003, but at that time with a different name and an additional guitar player. Back then we were about 16 years old and that's why our music was rather bad, hehe. We also had our first live experiences there and recorded 2 demos, of which one was put into trash right after the recordings.

**The name Ritual made me think of Unbroken and their record entitled "Ritual" and you're also listing Unbroken as one of your influences. Does the band name come from that or does it have another meaning for you?**

Well, on one hand our name is an homage to Unbroken's first LP, which is totally underestimated in our opinion. But we didn't call the band Ritual just because of that. At our shows we can break free from everything for a short time and forget all the negative things around us, this has become something like a ritual for us. Therefore we had two reasons to choose this name :)

**Did you have some kind of initial moment or a certain album when you think of hardcore? Is Unbroken such a band for you? How did you get in contact with Hardcore?**

Yes, Unbroken are for sure really important to us. Julian is listening to "Life.Love.Regret" since he's ten, haha... Well, for me the initial moment was probably when I first listened to Refused's "Rather be dead". Shortly after that I found out about Straight Edge and from then on, everything was clear. Considering that Chokehold and Inside Out were also really important bands for me.

**I really liked the lyrics of "The Escape". Especially the line "twenty minutes, every night, there's no need to think about the world's demise". Tell me, what does Hardcore and the community network make so special for you?**

When we were driving 10 days through Germany, Poland and Switzerland last autumn, there were people that were total strangers and gave us a place to sleep and something to eat every evening. There might be some people that could take that for granted, but it was really incredible to make this experience for the first time and I don't think, that you should take that for granted. And sometimes we

ask ourselves, how crazy we can be, to spend several hours or sometimes even the whole day on the highway just to be on stage for 20 minutes. But exactly these 20 minutes are so precious, that they compensate us for the negative aspects twice or thrice.

**Who's writing the lyrics? Is your singer writing them or does it someone else?**

Yes, our singer Julian is usually writing the lyrics. But on our upcoming album there are for the first time 2 songs, which he didn't write the lyrics for. One text was written by Julian's brother, who is a close friend of ours and I also wrote one text.

**When I was reading the liner notes I've seen that you recorded the 4 songs on one day. I think that's really cool, because the sound fits really good to your songs. Why was that, especially now that there are so many bands spending awful loads of time for a couple of songs?**

Haha, this has a rather simple practical reason: our friend Christian, who is currently doing an apprenticeship as a producer in Cologne could only use the studio on Sunday and therefore we had to shred all the songs on that Sunday. Exactly at 00:00 we started with setting up the gear and doing the sound check, at 5 AM the drums were done, then we slept a bit. The next morning I went away to see Sigur Ros in Hamburg, while the other three were spending the rest of the day, to finish the 4 songs.

**Are you happy and content how the songs came out, as well from the recording aspect as well as from the songwriting? Because I think your songs sound really unique and not like a copy of something. Well, I can't hear Unbroken and Chokehold :)**

Yes, I'm still quite content with our 7". I like the sound, because it doesn't sound overproduced. I'm also not of the opinion that our songs sound like Unbroken or Chokehold, even though we are inspired by these two bands. I personally rather think, that you can hear a little Hope Conspiracy or The Suicide File here



and there, hehe. Quite a lot of people think we're something like an Unbroken-Tribute-Band, but in some way it's our own fault, I guess. I hope that this can be reduced in the future and that we gain even more of a unique sound in the long run.

**When you did the recordings, did you already have a label to release the songs, or did that develop later?**

We recorded our four songs with the intention to release a 7", but we didn't know if or which label could be interested in working with us. So when we were doing this tour with The Facts, we had our freshly mastered songs as Promo-Cds with us, to avoid that people would forget about us after a show.

**Who is Drastic Actions and how did you get together?**

During this tour we also played in Esslingen near Stuttgart. Tassilo, who wanted to make his video-fanzine and second hand distro also a record label attended that show and took the Promo Cd with him. When we were back home, he asked us via email if he couldn't release the songs as a 7". That was like a dream come true for us...

**You are already planning to release a full length, which will be released by a different label. Why doesn't Drastic Actions put it out and who are the other labels?**

Well, to put out an album is a rather expensive thing and as Volker from "Fields Of Hope" pretty early came up with an offer, we instantly agreed on that. We already know him for several years and we know that he's such a great guy. But we don't exclude that we're gonna release a record with Drastic Actions. Tassilo worked really hard for us and we're really grateful for everything he did for us.

**You did a short tour last autumn. Can you tell us a few funny, sad or rather cool moments? Do you**

# RITUAL

HEAT



**plan playing a lot of shows in the next time or even a tour? Did you book this tour in autumn yourselves or did someone help you with that?**

We didn't book that tour ourselves. That did Marc the singer of The Facts. We're planning to play loads of shows starting at the end of May. Till then we're rather busy finishing the songs for our album and recording them. I'm as well busy with the preparations for my high school degree and I want to focus on playing more shows at the end of May when I will have left the exams behind. In July we want to go on tour with our new record. Broken Bones Booking from Hamburg will be taking care of that tour. This time we want to be out a little longer and play more countries here in Europe. I hope everything will work out as we hope for it...

There were so many funny and great moments that it's rather impossible to pick one of them. Especially because we're not doing much more than having a lot of fun. In general it's really nice if you play shows and you realize that people like what you do and when you get feedback from the audience, like people singing along or dancing. That's an incredible feeling.

**The layout for the 7" was done by Niko from Desperate Days. Where do you know him from? And you had a small blog entry on your myspace page about him, so tell us a little bit about that cooperation.**

Niko is one of our best friends. He's from Ibbenbueren, which is already a bit away from our hometown. He's supporting us since the beginning. Back then we also



played with his band Some Came Running. He's doing everything for us: artworks, shirt designs and now he just founded "Blacktop Records" to release the vinyl version of our new record. This is something special for us as we all really love vinyl records. Hopefully we can give something back to him...

**You are a Straight Edge band, but I think it's quite cool that you don't speak about that (at least on your 7") about that topic, just like many bands do. I don't think singing about SxE is bad, but I somehow realized it. Especially as you're still rather young (between 18-20) and bands at that age rather take a big stance on the SxE thing. So to get to the real question, how important is this topic for you on a personal level and how important is it for the band?**

Well, we believe that Straight Edge won't change the world. Many believe, that they're doing something incredible, if they're putting SxE logos somewhere, but they forget, that living drugfree isn't the only thing to do. SxE is and will always be something really personal.

**Are all of you vegetarians or vegans? That's usually a question I ask out of curiosity. If yes, how important is that for you and what's your view on this topic?**

Our guitar player is vegetarian, the rest of us is living strictly vegan. This way of life is very important for us. It's really hard for us to understand, why so many humans are putting living beings, that are feeling the same pain as we do, to death just out of pure convenience and comfort.

**Do you also play in other bands? And who are The Facts?**

Yes, three of us do play in The Swords. Musically The

Swords are more chaotic and crazy than Ritual and because The Swords are a vegan band we use the band as a platform to provoke meat eaters, haha... But this is just a side project because the singer of The Swords is spending a lot of time with his band The Heartbreak Motel and we are focusing a lot on Ritual recently. Nonetheless we are rehearsing on a regular level, but shows are rather sparse right now. But you can expect more from us in the future.

The Facts are also a small band from Germany and they're coming from north of the Ruhrpott area. The Swords released a split 7" with them. The day, when we were supposed to go on tour with them, 2 members of them decided to quit and so Julian and Danny spontaneously helped them out and filled the empty spots. Since this tour they were helping them out. But, I can tell you that much, this band is not going to be around for much more time, haha...

**So what are you doing if you're not spending your time playing or writing music? School, work, studies, slacking?**

Julian is doing his civil service right now, Kevin and Danny are still going to school and I'm currently in my final year at school. What everyone of us is going to do in the future that's rather unclear...

**So I'm done with my questions. Thanks Philip for taking the time to answer my questions and now feel free to drop some names, send some shootouts, greetings, thanks whatever...**

Thank you for writing something about us in your Fanzine. We really appreciate that. Our greetings, thanks and love letters go out to: Niko, Volker, Tassilo, Christian, Michi, Tobi St. , Ebbing, Dennis, Hendrik and Morrissey.

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# Turn The Screw

You are from Belgium, right? What do you think about this change of genres? I mean about 5-8 years ago Belgium was known for its metalcore bands and now there are many hardcore bands.

I think it's cool to see there's a change to the stuff that happened around here 5-8 years ago. When I didn't know old bands like YOT, CRO MAGS,... I also listened to that crap, now the only records I still listen to are the 3 first CONGRESS records. It's cool that this is happening so hardcore kids get to see the other side of hardcore, now in Belgium you've got everything, right now it's more old school hardcore but there is still a lot of different stuff so things changed and all but nothing really died. DEAD STOP has a lot to do in this change, as they said: that wanted to play good old hardcore and turn some heads, they accomplished that.

And what is your opinion about end of Dead Stop? They said that: "We have accomplished everything we wanted to achieve with this band". What do you want to achieve with TTS?

The end of DS sucks really hard but it's better to stop when the time is right than fade away. This band also turned my head and I started checking out all these old bands like NA, ANTIDOTE... but there was this kid that gave me a huge hardcore history on 3 mix tapes so I could check everything out.

Actually I don't really want to set things out that I really want to do. I just see where we get. When we started this band we were like: "cool this sound cool, let's just do what we wanna do" we just wanted to release a 7inch and play cool shows, that's all we wanted to do.

Can you please give us some facts from Turn The Screw history...?

Joris and I went skating one day, I broke my deck. His brother and he had this sketchy hardcore song and we started jamming. We started to take it more and more serious, asked Sam to play bass, recorded the first demo (don't ask me for it, it sucks big time), played the first cool shows. Then we were kind a stuck so we decided it was time for a new demo and so we recorded a new demo at studio 195. A lot of people liked the demo and we played quite some shows in Belgium and Holland which are some of the best memories I have from this band. In May 2005 we decided to record 9 songs for a 7 inch which was normally going to be released by Anger Management records but this didn't happen. So we contacted Ronald and he was down with releasing us and so he did. Now we're going to record a couple of songs we made but we don't know what we're gonna do with them.

Why you decided to call a band like you did? Don't you think it's a fuckin strange name?

You're young, you want a band, you need a name, you check some releases you have laying around and you pick one (it comes from a HOLDING ON song). It's kind of a goofy name but who cares...

Your music is rather in old style. Why do you prefer to do it that way? I mean that there are other genres of HC, right? And you could be playing something else. This band didn't start out as a plan or something it just happened. When we make songs we start jamming and we'll see what happens. We know we play a style that's popular today and I'm not going to deny that we aren't unique. I know there are other styles of hardcore but this the only thing I wanna play in a band right now, it sounds good, it feels good and I always have a good time so why play something I don't wanna play?

Your music is harsh, fast and true. Where lays inspiration for this music madness?

Almost every kid from our age goes to school and gets confronted with these dicks and bitches everyday and sometimes this can make me really mad, but I just build everything up till I write a song and then this is what comes out. This band/music is my only way to get all this shit out and I think that the songs represent that.

What are your lyrics talking about? I know that it is hard to answer question like that in one answer but you have lot of space hehe

I don't really have a long answer for this cause the only thing I write songs about is about people I hate and annoy me, what irritates me a lot and finally sometimes when I got a lot of inspiration I write lyrics about shit I'm going through or went through, almost all my lyrics are pretty negative but when I hear songs from TTS I don't get the urge to write a positive lyric cause anger is the only feeling I get when I'm playing with this band.

What do you think about people who don't know you and that talk shit behind your backs?

Fuck those guys, but who cares dude that's just material for my lyrics, I eat those fuckers alive!

What is more important for you skateboarding or hardcore? And why?

Skateboarding kind a grew out of me, I still do it now and then but I don't do as much as I did back when TTS began although the last weeks I'm skating more than usual. Hardcore is way more important for me since I'm busy with it everyday. I can't imagine my life without hardcore, there would be this gigantic emptiness if it would disappear. Everyday I listen to it and every time

I listen to it I feel comfortable cause it makes me think of all the good things in life, I can relate to the lyrics and also important just the music gives me a good feeling.

*Yours 7"* was released by Not Just Words Recs from The Netherlands. How your cooperation is going? And do you think it is good label for band like TTS? Ronald and Franky were there when we needed a label most. The cooperation is going great I don't have a single thing to complain about. They are a great label with great bands, they handle their bands really good and they always give everything. They will always listen when you've got something to say and they are willing to grow.

I really think this label is good for TTS since I've got nothing to complain about, our 7inch has got great distribution and looks good, we've got everything we wanted so big up to the guys from NJW.

What in your opinion are 3 the most important bands in HC?

Cro Mags, Bad Brains, Minor Threat

Give us your 5 best ever records and 5 'new' that you listen to lately...

5 best records ever: (in no particular order)

- Youth Of Today: Break Down The Walls

- Minor Threat: all

- Cro Mags: Alpha Omega

- Floorpunch: all

- Wu - Tang Clan: 36 Chambers

(I should also mention: DYS, Government Issue, VOID)

5 best new records: (also in no order)

- Lion Of Judah: that LP with their demo and 7inch

- Dead Stop: all

- Rise And Fall: Hellmouth

- Iron Boots: all

- The Blinds: demo

Anything to add...

It's cool to see that you're doing a zine, a year back a lot of kids did zines here but that kinda faded away, too bad... thanks for giving us chance, check out the 7inch cause it's almost sold out, take care!

Thanks for the interview!

[www.turnthescrew.tk](http://www.turnthescrew.tk)



WWW.DEFENDHC.COM



# Defend

HARDCORE CLOTHING COMPANY

Defend HC Clothing is company established in polish city called Kwidzyn in 2004. It has 3 members: Ada, Jarek and Michael. As their first product one could see jackets and later on belts, trousers, zippers and other stuff. Name itself was created by Jarek but it does not have any special meaning. Just good name for a hardcore company.

The idea was born in head of Mike and Jarek. As Mike says: "I always liked idea to establish company to do some clothes with spirit! It has been growing for a long time in my head and finally DEFEND HC Clothing Company was created!" Founders are satisfied because many polish kids (and not just polish - because they get more and more orders from abroad) want to have some Defend clothes (1st reason is high quality and 2nd one is that Defend is hardcore company).

In their catalogue on can find jackets, t-shirts, polo's, shirts, sweaters, shorts, belts. Now they are working on some new designs and they hope to create

something new soon.

Very interesting is that they do all by themselves. I mean almost. They choose and buy materials and then use Jarek's fathers company. And that is how they sew all their stuff.

I asked Mike if there are any chances to earn some money on that business. He says: "If one talks about the money this case is very simple. Major part of the money goes for production of new clothes. And then another part goes for supporting hardcore scene in Poland. And if anything is left we take it." That is very good way. Because the most important for Defend is to become bigger and well known company. And of course they do care about improving hardcore scene. And as far as I know they do not just support polish bands. As Mike says: "We do not sponsor the bands. It is to big word we just support them..." And after a while he adds: "Although I do think that at this particular moment they help us more and I am grateful for that!"

Here you have a list of all bands supported by DEFEND HC Clothing Company:

Faust Again(PL) [www.faustagain.com](http://www.faustagain.com)  
 No Heaven Awaits Us (PL) [www.noheaven.hard-core.pl](http://www.noheaven.hard-core.pl)  
 100 Inch Shadow(PL) [www.100inchshadow.com](http://www.100inchshadow.com)  
 Machinemade God(GER) [www.machinemadegod.com](http://www.machinemadegod.com)  
 Deadsoil (GER) [www.deadsoil.net](http://www.deadsoil.net)  
 Count to React (FR) [www.myspace.com/counttoreact](http://www.myspace.com/counttoreact)  
 Xforever trueX (USA) [www.myspace.com/forevertrue](http://www.myspace.com/forevertrue)  
 XinsurrectionX (PL) [www.xinsurrectionx.prv.pl](http://www.xinsurrectionx.prv.pl)

If any band wants to join Defend Team they should write directly to Mike ([defend@defendhc.com](mailto:defend@defendhc.com)). And maybe they will agree to support them!

Plans on the future for Defend Clothing are to create some sporting clothes. Especially trousers! So be aware of DEFEND and have your eyes open on their activity!

**SUPPORT DEFEND CLOTHING!**



# An Army of Outlaws Wanted Dead or Alive



FINAL PRAYER "Right Here Right Now" CD - UNDER SIEGE "Days of Dying Monuments" CD  
 FEAR MY THOUGHTS "Smell Sweet Smell" CD - AWOKEN "Death of Glory" CD (out in June 06)



## NO HEAVEN AWAITS US

**Hi Radek! I think that we should start with some questions about your history – but please give us just the most important facts!**

NHAU was conceived around 2000. The beginnings were tough in terms of completing line-up, but after a few months of people coming and going we wrote the material and were ready for playing shows. At that time we played a great deal of them considering the fact that the band was so young and unknown, and as I recall those concerts now I guess we enjoyed them most. Meanwhile we recorded a demo "Fighting for soul" at a show with Forest in Blood in Bydgoszcz. After that we collected some money and finally, in spring 2003, were able to afford a few days in studio. So we recorded our first full-length "Enemy of the Human Race" in Warsaw, at Serakos Studio. Then we played a lot of shows and were working on a new material. When it was ready we went to Spaart Studio to record it in March 2005. The cd has just been released by Lifeline Records and it is called "Irony of pure hatred". I kept it as short as I could and hope I didn't bore you stiff.

**And I have read on your website that your name is somehow connected to the almighty Arkangel. Please explain why you have chosen this name.**  
Because it corresponds to what we play and represent.

It's dark and gets you thinking. It's funny how some people interpret it as another blasphemy about god, solely for the reason that the band plays metal. In fact there's so much more to it. On one hand, this name is an expression of our attitude towards the world and mankind. Life has no simple categories of good and evil; you're not good simply because you help an old lady cross the street and you're not going to hell just because you use dirty language. We wanted to focus the attention on the fact that our life is what we want to make of it and that it does not depend on some gods or preachers. We are responsible for our fate. On the other hand, there is the state of humankind and the world that we have developed over the years which seems to shout out loud: no heaven awaits us only a hell that man creates on earth (which, by the way, is a direct quotation from Arkangel). I mean, look at us after thousands of years of history; we have no fresh air to breathe, some of us starve to death or suffer from extreme poverty while others are fucking rich and obese; we measure our happiness with fancy cars and trendy clothes. So, what goes from here, is that we have to realize and respect the fact that we are not alone on this planet here and now, there are and will be others, so we have to try to stop being parasites and try to live accordingly. Unfortunately, I am aware that it's only wishful thinking and my talking won't

change anything, so I do my best to isolate myself from everyone I consider parasites.

**I know that you are shortly after Irony Tour. With whom you were playing, where you have been, what places have you seen? Give us short review of this tour!**

Sadly enough it's over. It all happened thanks to Almost Heaven Booking so I'd like to thank them for it a big time (respect brothers). It is so hard to organize some shows outside Poland, especially for a band like us, with no foreign friends (although MySpace says we have plenty of them) and playing music that is now considered passe. The more happy we are that we finally pulled it through and went to places where most of the people had never heard about our band before. Yet, plenty people came to shows and had a great time. We toured Slovakia, Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland. We were accompanied by Calm The Fire all along, and we played a few shows with Ambrosia and Firestars. Out of all the places we've been to Prague was with doubt the best. We travelled like phantoms with powers of night after show Slovakia, even though we're night creatures, we like to play places you don't know just to them in hand and great great people and some great great places.

So we liked the tour very much. The best gig of the tour though, was in Tychy, Poland. Kuba, this show's organizer did his best to make everything right, despite great difficulties (he's the man). To sum the tour up, it was exactly what we needed at the time and should anything like this happen again we'll be jumping with joy. To put it differently, feel free to invite us to play gigs in your town because we love it and you sure gonna get your ass and ears kicked.

**As far as I know you have also been to Russia in September 2004 on few shows, right? And what can you say about those shows? And what was your expectations to this tour? And your impressions after Russian tour?**

The trip to Russia was one of the best ones that happened to us so far. Russia is stereotyped as the land of vodka, corrupted police and gangsters. I mean, we also held this stereotype of Russia before going there and it turned out to be partially true (I mean vodka of course). Otherwise, you can find so much friendliness, hospitality and hunger for shows of bands other than Russian, that it shocked me. I think this hunger for shows is similar to that in Poland a few years back, when no one came to Poland because it was too far away, it was cold and you could be robbed, hehehe. The situation resembles what happens in Russia now, they get virtually no bands from the western Europe. They do, however, have good Russian hc/punk scene with bands like Breakwar or Changes.

As for our gigs in Moscow and St. Petersburg, they were fucking great. Every show was full, with about 300 people who seemed to be having a really good time, and what's more, knew our material and sang along with us! (hail the Internet!) So if you have a band we really recommend Russia as a place for shows, and have no second thoughts, man, you won't regret it. We sure are coming back. In fact we have two shows booked in February. We play in Kaliningrad and Moscow (25th and 26th of February), so if you have no weekend plans drop by.

**And what differences you have noticed between your home hardcore scene and the foreign ones?**

To tell you the truth, the only difference I've noticed is that people from foreign hc scenes speak foreign languages hehe. Hardcore is hardcore (life is life hehehe) so if you have kids buying t-shirts and being trendy and shit abroad, you also have them here in Poland. And vice versa, whether here or there, you have people who care and are in it for the music and friendship or whatever. The only real difference is that in some places you get an abundance of hardcore shows while other places get nothing. Hardcore has always seemed global, you know, wherever you go when you meet some hardcore kids you'll always have some common topics and most probably they will provide you with a place to sleep over or food. It works quite well and I love it.

**Your first important release was CD called "Enemy of the human race". What feedbacks did it get?**

**How do you see it from a period of time? And what it meant to you as a band to record this CD?**

"Enemy of the human race" was our first material to be recorded in a professional studio, so it was some kind of stage in development of the band. We learned a lot and it helped us not to make the same mistakes while recording the next material. We are not 100% happy



with the record but we clearly lacked the experience and money to do it the right way. On the other hand, maybe it's this lack that made the record that nice and authentic. The feedback was mainly positive, of course there were voices of criticism that it was too monotonous and that the material seemed to be one long track instead of variety of tracks. But we can take criticism quite well, and we kind of play such monotonous and slow music, so you just have to bear with it. Nevertheless, the record is nearly sold out, so there were few people who liked it that way.

**And it was released by label called NME RecorDIYings... What is (or was) this creation? Why did you decide to release it by yourselves?**  
NME RecorDIYings was a kind of virtual label created by us to be able to write something on the cover of the cd hehehe. We had to release the material ourselves because there was no one who wanted to bring it out. We decided not to wait until the material cools down so we handled the release a to z ourselves. And it makes the cd so special to us. We put a lot of work into it and it worked, people got to know us and we started playing a lot of gigs.

**Last month (November 2005) your newest baby was released. It is entitled "Irony of pure hatred". The title itself is very interesting. Can you tell me why you decided to call a cd like that?**

The title of the release is a quote from Bill Hicks and I guess we chose it because it fits the band just fine. People see our band as being tough, which is not necessarily true. That's why it's a bit ironic, of course we have pissed-off lyrics and play aggressive music, but we don't want to be labelled and stick to some style forever. We are a hardcore band, although we play metal, and we really don't care about what others think of us or how they label us. We surely bring a lot of hatred with our music but we don't want to be tagged as a soundtrack for tattooed people with huge muscles and knuckle dusters. I'd like to be called hardcore without further subdivisions like brutal moshcore and stuff that do more harm than good. I'd like to get people thinking after reading our lyrics or listening to our music rather than label us brutal mosh

and go on looking for some mathcore or whatever. It's not that simple, because I don't feel tough nor brutal although I'm quite loaded and hate the world like majority of people reading it, I guess. 'Cause hardcore is like that: full of hate and aggression, but let's not play labelling everything just to know if you like a band before you even play their record or read their lyrics. I mean I don't seem to have these kinds of categories with hardcore music, saying this is oldschool, this is metalcore and shit, and I listen to a lot of stuff. You can have hardcore breakfast, read hardcore book or take a hardcore shit just as well as go to a hardcore gig or something! (Oops, I might have gone too far here...)

**Your lyrics are rather full of hate and in them you accuse people of having some kind of imaginary attitude, and in my opinion you accuse them of not being true and honest. Am I right? And if I am can you tell me what do you see that makes your lyrics this way?**

You're right about my lyrics. I'm a loaded guy who can't write about anything else, I guess. And what pisses me off are people, so there you go, I write about fucked up people, hehehe. Sometimes I push myself into positive thinking about mankind, but I always end up failing and cursing everyone. Even when I try to limit the number of people I trust and care about, there's always this one guy stabbing me in my fucking back when I least expect it. So what can you do? You can stay alert and trust very few. There's no honesty, no sympathy, no commitment! Unfortunately, this is what living among human community is like. You can only count on yourself.

**Another thing that I have noticed in your lyrics is that you use some words to express condition of humanity in our times. I might be wrong... But what do you think where are we going now as a people, as a mankind? In which direction?**  
I believe that as a mankind we're heading for annihilation from the very beginning. We abuse and destroy everything on our way and we don't give a fuck about consequences. As the humanity developed it was gradually losing all the good traits, such as sincerity,

love, empathy, etc. The worst thing about us is that we don't seek similarities, so we always find differences and dwell on them. This is all fucked up, I mean how can you simply live your life and not give a fuck about anything else? And this is the way of life of about 99% of people who don't care about what they leave behind and what they stand for (because they stand for nothing!). We should be called egokind. A breed of egoist in love with themselves and in their sick needs. I have an idea, not very popular one, to give those people a part of the Earth and let them steal, rape, cheat and eat there as long as they stay out! But there's a tiny problem, those people are a vast majority so we're destined to live among them and we can't help it as long as we exist (which I hope is gonna end soon, for how much more can we take??!!)

**And what about these graphics in your booklet? I mean the ones which are signed with nouns: "war", "poverty", "ignorance", "child labor". What do they mean? What do they stand for?**

Those graphics come from a park in Moscow. When you see them alive they really make a big impression on you. They were created by Mihail Chemiakin. The whole composition of the monuments is called: Children are the victims of adult's vice. I used them because they are the exact content of what I'm trying to say in NHAU, which is drawing attention to what we are. Originally, the monuments are about children being harmed by adults. I extended the meaning of the graphics to the mankind as being pure evil, full of egoists, ignorants and idiots.

**Your CD starts with some intro movie or fragment of somebody's speech. What is that? And why did you choose exactly that one?**

The intro is a fragment of Bill Hick's stand-up comedy. We chose this very part of his speech, 'cause it is a kind of prelude to the track that follows. The message is not to let yourself be dazed by the media, society or even your friends and just do and choose the right things, and most of all, to think. The truth is, we're exposed to a lot of different information, influences, therefore most of us can't figure it out for themselves and as a result we've got copies of copies of the same people instead of original, unique and thoughtful beings. We've got everything served to us and we've become passive ignorants with heads full of ready-made solutions. We don't use our brains and imagination, we just pat our butts instead.

**Now let's get to the music point of this interview. I think your music has evolved in past few years and now it's tough as fuck. What was your inspiration in writing this album?**

We were not inspired by anything directly. We just play the music. It is perhaps not too innovative, but this is the way we want to play. It is heavy and brutal and it's supposed to be like that. We did a bit of experimenting

with our sound in the studio so that it is so fucking heavy. Of course, a big influence here is Tolas who did not record our previous release with us. His heart is set on making music and that's it.

**I think that you are in the same league with tough, brutal music with guyz from Shattered Realm (I mean there past cds not the new one!). How would you describe your music to somebody who is deaf?**

It's cool that you put us in the same line with SR because we really like the band. Although their latest record isn't that good, we've palyed with them recently

because some trustworthy people recommended it to us and they were proven right. We wanted this release to sound rrreally good and the studio didn't let us down. I can't see the point in recording your stuff in foreign studios, where they charge higher, if you have perfectly suitable studios in your own country.

**Bill Hicks...Who is the guy whose photo you put on the layout? What is so special about him?**

Bill Hicks was a comedian from USA. The reason I love him so much is that he wanted people to realize how brainless, useless and stupefied they are by modern global reality. Not only did he make people laugh

about their own vices, but he also put it bluntly, not beating about the bush. This is what I like most about him, he could make people laugh telling some fart jokes, but the second later he would tell the audience how stupid and ignorant they were. The man is a legend. He was trying to draw our attention to the important things. He made people think or ponder at least. He did not conform to the standard way of thinking (often imposed by society or the media), he explained over and over again that we have free will and we should not be afraid to use it in our lives. He wanted people to see that they're much more than puppets in the hands of some hypocrites, and that it's time we started to decide for ourselves and about ourselves and live our lives consciously instead of switching channels on TV.

**Lifeline Records is rather new label around. What can you say about this label? And how beginnings of your cooperation look like?**

Lifeline Records have just started to release records, and they bring out several bands simultaneously. Our cooperation has been good and

we've just had our material released and we are very happy about the quality of it. As a graphic designer of the layout I was quite worried about the outcome of my work printed out and stuff, but I ended up shitting my pants when I saw our album. Robert Lifeline did a great job. The promotion of our record is about to start so I hope that the cooperation with Lifeline Record will be just as good as it has been.

**Do you think that now you will be heard in Europe and you will be able to start some European career?**

I sure hope so. We will try to promote our new material wherever possible and play as many shows as possible 'cause in fact this is the only way to get recognition.

**Anything to add...**

Thanks for giving me means of expression in your zine. I appreciate elaborate questions. Take care and see you around.

[www.noheaven.hard-core.pl](http://www.noheaven.hard-core.pl)



and I've got to say that they kick ass a big time. Coming back to NHAU it is hard for me to describe our music. The words that fit in here are: internal combustion engine and steamroller. It's heavy and slow, to put it differently plenty of ear kicking noise.

**I can hear voices that your CD is good but it can get boring after few songs. What is your opinion?**

I also heard those voices and I really don't know how to respond. I don't think 'boring' is a good word here, I'd rather use 'monotonous'. You either like that kind of stuff or you don't. I also got bands that I consider boring after listening to few tracks and it's understandable 'cause you cannot like every band and every kind of hardcore or whatever. I must add that our music is made mainly for concerts.

**Your sound is just fuckin' great. I have not heard for a long time such good and bloody sound.**

**Where have you recorded your stuff? And why did you choose polish studio to do it?**

We recorded our material in Spaart Studio. We chose it

# ROUTINE CHECK

**Introduce the band gentlemen... When, where, why, who... You know the routine.**

OK, I'm \*\*Andy\*\* I sing in the band. And also in the band you have Sean, Chris, Thom and our new drummer, Murphy. We've all been in a million bands before and all got together in the summer of this year with a common goal of playing fast old school hardcore and playing as many shows as we can. It's going great!\*

**Why the name Routine Check? Who do you want to check? Or maybe you don't like being routinely checked?**

Chris, our bass player came up with the name. He says when he was younger he would constantly be stopped by the police while driving just for being a young punk growing up in the city.\* \*Routine check is a reaction to that. I like the name, it beats anything I could come up with!

**What is it that actually drives you guys to be in a band? I mean, there are probably hundreds other things you could do, you know, work harder on your professional careers and stuff like that.**

For me personally, playing in ROUTINE CHECK is a chance to get away from the professional part of my life. I might be the only person in the band who actually enjoys his job, but I still need to get away from it from time to time! For me, having fun is the main reason of doing this band. Nothing beats the feeling of watching kids going off to your music and if we can make some friends and have a laugh along the way then we have achieved everything we set out to do.

**You don't come from the same city... Is it difficult to keep the whole thing going because of that?**

It's not too bad, we thought it would be a p\*\*\*rob\*\*\*lem at first but it has all settled down nicely and we do regularly get to practice and hang out so it's all good.

**As for a newcomer you've played quite a few shows... How's crowd reaction been so far? Is it really worth wasting your money, time and health to play in front of a bunch of kids? Is it really that rewarding for you?**

Well, at first obviously, kids did not know what to expect from us so we didn't get much of a reaction except for the cover-songs... but since playing with CHAMPION in October it's been going crazy for us which is an awesome thing to be a part of.

**Musically and lyrically you don't beat around the bush... Both music and lyrics are straight-forward. You claim to be "fast, pissed off hardcore reminiscent of those bands of yesterday". You guys are stuck in the past or was there another reason for choosing this particular way**

**of expressing yourself?**

To us, too many bands are coming out decked in Nike high-tops, with no real style or substance and they usually end up splitting up within 6 months. We're out to make old school hardcore fun again, and prove there's more to hardcore than current fashion trends.

**With hundreds new bands coming out each week why anyone should pay attention to your band?**

**Could you state at least one reason for doing so?** Sincerity. That's the one thing I think could set us apart from the rest. We all love this band, love the style of the music and are having a great time playing shows. You only have to talk to us or see us live to see how much we enjoy doing it.

**Can you elaborate on lyrical content of your songs? Do you want to preach, communicate or confess? I'm sure you all have some all time fav lyrics of other artists, could you share them with our readers and tell your picks are important to you?**

To be honest, my lyrics are straight to the point attacks on society, class and the hardcore scene in general. There will be explanations for our songs accompanying the lyrics on our 7" so be sure to check it out. I tried to back off from political lyrics to an extent as I just want this band to be about having fun and not getting too serious. Some of my lyrics could be seen as having a 'dig' at certain people, and I am more than happy to let people see/read that.

**What's it like to live in the UK? Do you dig living there? What are your feelings on Labor government and their domestic/foreign policy?**

Well, I speak for myself when I say the Labor



government is an absolute disgrace (and if we're honest here – the other political parties are just as fucking bad) but I don't let them play any part of my life, I have my beliefs set in stone and no one can take that from me. As for living in the \*\*UK\*\*, I'm sure there are a lot worse places to be and I do like it here, aside from the fascist governments it's not such a bad place to be.

**Tell us something about your upcoming 7 inch.**

**Why 7 inch and not a mini-CD?**

There will be a CDR to accompany the 7", we feel that some kids might not have a record player and decided to do it this way. The 7" is being pressed at the moment and the artwork is being drawn by Sean Taggart (who did sleeves for CAUSE FOR ALARM, RUMBSUCKERS and MENTAL to name but a few)

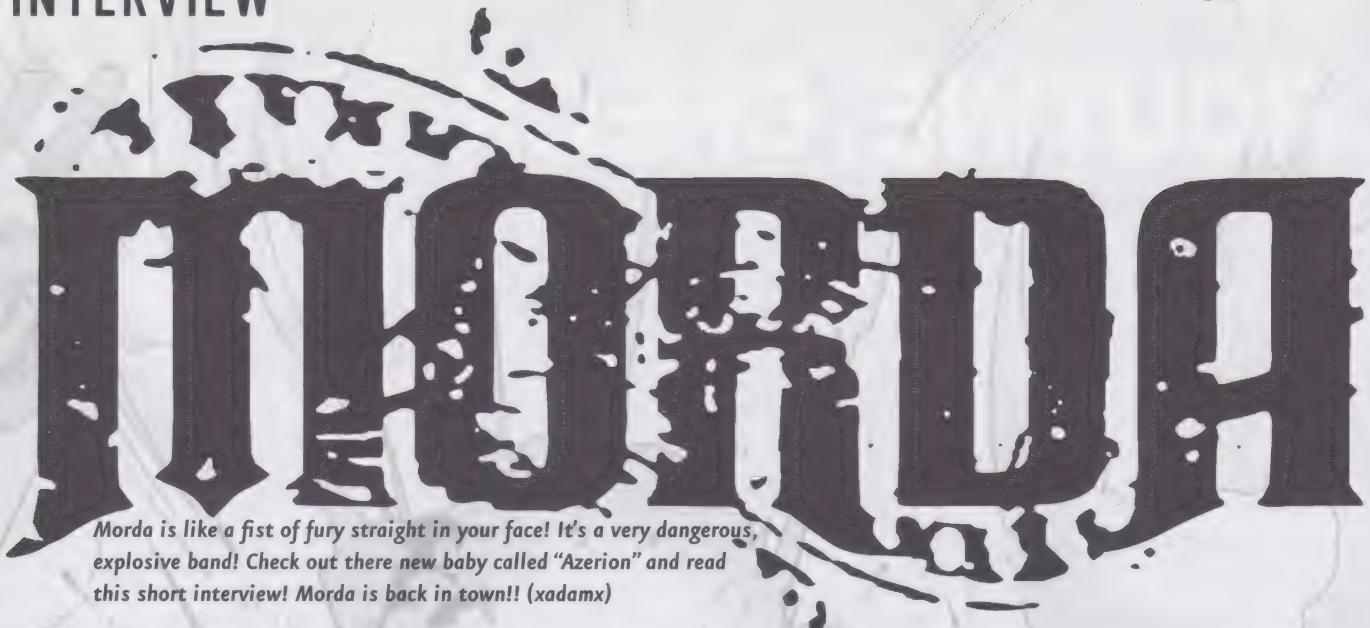
It has a tentative release date of mid January 2006 and will be coming out on RAT PATROL RECORDS who have some fantastic releases on the way. It's exciting times for us for sure!

**Thank You very much for the interview!**

Thanks for the interview, we really do appreciate it, and keep an eye on our myspace page for updates etc.

[www.myspace.com/routinecheck](http://www.myspace.com/routinecheck)





**Morda is like a fist of fury straight in your face! It's a very dangerous, explosive band! Check out there new baby called "Azerion" and read this short interview! Morda is back in town!! (xadamx)**

**You have been lately on European tour with Pro-Pain. How did you get the chance to go with them on tour?**

Hi what's up!! That's right. November '05, MORDA toured Europe as support act for PRO-PAIN. Last year we encountered a 14 day tour with PRO-PAIN as well, and all was great fun. As shows passed by, we appreciated each other more and more. Because of the good times back then, they contacted us and asked if we were interested in joining them once again. We felt it was time to promote the "Azerion" album some more in Europe, so we took the offer and joined the tour. Some months before, July '05, we toured Europe for 14 days on our own, which was great. Austria, Spain, Italy, Germany, France,.. All were great to MORDA!!

**And how did you like it? And what can you say about Pro-Pain... Are they 'big stars' or just friendly people?**

First off, joining a tour at that somewhat major level, is great fun. You know, cool venues, large food and the backup of a professional road crew. Yet besides that, nothing beats DIY touring!! We manifested our summer tour by ourselves, played small pubs, sometimes drove 14 hours a day to get from the one show to the other, no professional roadies or whatever the fuck, just hardcore kids all over!! That's the most amazing way of touring, to us. Kids helping out kids. As far as the PRO-PAIN guys themselves, they rule. No rock star shit. Everybody who's on that tour is like equal, you know. All getting along, fucking shit up on the road hehe. Could tell a zillion stories, every band should release a book filled with tour stories, amazing times for all!!

**Now some questions about your latest release. What does the title of CD ('Azerion') mean? In one of your lyrics you wrote that "Azerion was my relief" ...and it's very, very mysterious for me. And in other lyric you wrote "The world's lost in Azerion" ... It's getting more and more mysterious!**

The actual lyric is "In my will to power life (and its aspects) Azerion was my relief". We use that word, "Azerion", as some kind of a metaphor. It symbolizes a borderline, the border between rationale and emotion. Each one of us, we try adding some structure into our life. We try to rationalize our life. Yet sometimes, due to different feelings (eg.. Hate, pain, love, the state

of happiness...) we're obligated to cross that border, and let ourselves free within' the world of emotions. Life itself is a never ending struggle between emotion and rationale. Perhaps we just pretend to be able to rationalize our life?! "The world's lost in Azerion".

**On one of your lyrics you write about love. "To love is to possess... Love is my frequent act of stupidity". This is for sure different look on love. Can you explain what you have in your mind writing text for "Forsaken"?**

One can not ignore the fact of being of love. The dark side of that fact is that sometimes, you get screwed up. "You came in, you can have my mask". When giving all to the beloved, you can get fucked in the end. Yet.. you can't control those feelings, frequently they do return. Strong feelings can change your world. "Passion is the scent that led us into an endless excess".

**Why "Truth is madness and madness is fear"?**

Everybody is talking about truth. Truth is a word launched by man, and it means nothing as well as everything. What actually is truth?! Can you tell?! Truth is total madness... and madness is fear. We're scared for what is real... "She (the truth) holds me in her lap on a walk with lonely tears..." The "walk with lonely tears" is a metaphor for life. The lyric deals with my aim for knowledge, my aim to be able answering the question "what is real".

**After reading all lyrics on Azerion I think that they are a bit mysterious, poetic. Was that your aim when you were writing them?**

My aim when writing lyrics is that I hope, when people read the lyrics, they're able to recognize aspects of their own lives. The lyrics deal with life. It's an analysis of things that have happened in my life, it's a way of expressing myself. They're not supposed to be dark, they're the way I perceive life. And believe me, I'm a very happy guy!!

**And cover and all graphics are full of darkness.**

**Who have invented it? And who did it?**

The cover and its colors is something that was created by our designer as well as ourselves, as a team. All got designed in two single nights. We had a bunch of ideas and pictures. During the process we jingled with lots of

colors, and the dark ones manifested the "Azerion" vibe for the best. Layout wise, Yves is king. Check his shit at [www.snyvo.com](http://www.snyvo.com)

**I think that your music has changed a bit. You can still hear that this is Morda but I think it's more metal and brutal. Was it a natural progress or you wanted to record something else than "86"?**

As they are resemblances between the "Eighty-Six" and the "Azerion" album, melodies are still all over the place. The differences, still being amateurs, we evolved within' the world of songwriting/technical capabilities. The songs being more brutal and metal, that's possible. We feel strong about this shit, the aggression just slipped into the songs.

**I have seen development especially in singer's voice. How can you improve your voice? Do you practice in your house standing before mirror?**

Hehe, no, not at all! Truth is I never practice. I only use this kind of voice on stage. It's just a natural progression. I found better ways to use my voice, without hurting it too much. When being on tour, playing shows every night, you really have to take care of your voice. Give it up for hot tea hehe.

**It's always hard for a band to record 2nd full album after releasing such great 1st CD as you did. Do you think that you made it and 2nd one "Azerion" is also such fuckin great album as "86" is?**

First off, thanks for the big words. Yeah, we like the "Eighty-Six" album, a lot. Somehow it paved the path, bringing our music to many of you out there. With the "Azerion" album, we knew we had to make it happen. We invested a lot of time and hard work and we strongly take pride in how the "Azerion" album turned out. It's hard to make an album, yet at the same time, it's amazingly cool seeing a bunch of riffs and words resolve in being an album. As far as we know, "Azerion" fucking reigns in terror hehe.

**Till now you have released one split and 2 full albums. And all of that stuff on 3 different labels. Why you have changed labels so frequently? And do you think that maybe your next release will be released by another label or do you want to do it**



**for Eye Spy Records?**

That split CD was release was kind a meant to be a demo yet somehow the songs ended up on 2 different split CDS, which was awesome for us!! Patrick "Burning Season Records" did a great job and we love him for that. We're still the best friends, in fact we're playing his Austria Summer fest again this summer, fucking go!! as that fest rules. The "Eighty-Six" album was released by the "Genet Records" family and we worked our asses of spreading it around. Somewhat it paved the path for our new release, "Azerion". For this one, we got backup from the amazing "Eye Spy Records". They're our best friends and their DIY approach rules. "Eye Spy" isn't no major player in the league, yet they go for it for a 100.000% so what else does a band need?! Friendship, fun and commitment.

**I have seen live videos and you guyz rock! Your music is one of the best for live shows and you also are having fun when you are on the scene, playing your songs. Many bands just play songs and that's it. Why it's different in your case? Do you think that is for other bands something normal and for you is not?**

Thanks for comments, fuck yeah!! I kind a get your point. I'm quickly bored seeing a band just standing their doing their thing. Hardcore blasts, hardcore rages!! We attempt to destroy all when playing out. And the fun part you mention, hehe, that's the coolest part. We don't care about playing the same set of song/moves every weekend, that would be fucking bore.

**I was wondering why on your website you don't have your biography? It's weird cause I can't remember a band without bio on their website... Can you explain that?**

We don't feel the need of a biography. In fact, it isn't that one of the things which makes hardcore so awesome?! When having questions, you just can step up to some band member and raise your voice. Anyone willing to know some more about MORDA, get to us at a gig, mail us as all the contact information are broadcasted at the site. You won't see me stepping up to Glenn Danzig, asking what's up about this or that. Yet I am however able to reach out to Hans Liar asking some LIAR details. Hardcore rules, fuck boundaries. The MORDA history, wanna know more?? Get to us!!

**And can you write some main facts from**

**your history. Just for us to know some details of Morda's history...**

MORDA was launched somewhere in 1999. At that current time, we couldn't play shit. Just wanted to start a band like all our friends did. So we bought ourselves some gear and harassed the neighbors. Back then, we would never believe that we'd play the leper Festival 5 times straight, rock at the GoodLife fest 3 years in a row, tour Europe with ALL OUT WAR, PRO-PAIN and mainly, by ourselves....

**For me as a Polish kid your name is something abnormal. Don't get me wrong... You know what Morda means in Polish cause I saw it once on your website but what you have in your mind naming band like that?**

The coincidence!! It wasn't until the leperfest 2004 some Polish dude came up and told us about that one. MORDA says "ugly face" right?! Haha, that's just a coincidence, no harm intended. And than we released the "Azerion" album, which pictures some ugly motherfucker on the front cover haha, it ads up. I guess no Polish dude/girl will ever buy one of our shirts for that, damn!! The thing is, we just invented the name, all thought it sounded cool and shit. In fact, there's a whole meaning behind it, yet as it turns out,



that meaning didn't fit the word MORDA. We made a mistake and can't change the name now. Haha, we're happy, however, MORDA's the name. Wanna know the entire story?! Have a chat with us.

**I think you are rather successful band. You recorded good CDS and you play awesome live shows. What else you would like to gain on the scene?**

We're very happy about the state of MORDA as a band. You know, when started out this band, we didn't know jacks hit. We hardly managed any instrument so it's cool for us seeing our dreams becoming reality. What else to gain?! We feel lucky we can go with the flow, so let's keep it this way. Major thanks to all those making this band possible, be it through CD-listening, show support, shirt wearing, getting in touch with us,.... Major!!

**Do you like watching movies or reading books, or maybe you have other kind of hobby? Maybe you can write something interesting...**

We're no movie or book addicts, yet we know what's up within' those worlds. Our singer loses it when reading books dealing with philosophical books (eg. Kierkegaard, Marx,...). I myself love good movies.

PULP FICTION is way on top. Lately, thumbs up for the entire SAW game. SAW I and SAW II, insanity on the screen. "Oh yes, there will be blood". Check it out, crazy. The drummer, Mikie, is an all around musician. He plays the guitar in his other band, CROSSFIRE, and he's doing some studio work when not playing drums/guitars himself.

**What are your plans for the future? Anything to add?**

As for now, we're playing out live and we're busy writing new songs (which is taking us ages like always). We'll tour Europe in the summer of 2006 and hopefully we'll meet you on the way. Hail and kill, bye for now!! Thank you Adam & THE HEAT magazine!!

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person and I am proud to be on his label.

# When Tigers Fight

So far everyone new to your band. When was the idea born to do When Tigers Fight? And who was and is now involved?

**Jonathan:** WTF was started as a recording project between Jarrod and I. We meet through a Promise/Suicide File tour, hit it off and the WTF EP is the outcome. For years I wanted to eventually do a project with Mike also, so he was perfect for it. Ken worked on the vocals with Mike and recorded it, he seemed pretty impressed about the project, so naturally I offered the spot on guitar to him. Our bassist Scott was hooked up through Ken.

When and why did you decide to do it as a real band and not just a studio project?

**Jonathan:** At this time we still haven't played our first show, so it's pretty cool that the project has received this much recognition without doing so. We're gonna start playing out this summer, so we're pretty excited about that.

**Mike:** I just quit my job so I hope to be able to start playing shows more regularly. Ken owns a studio, Scott is a tour manager for Hawthorne Heights and Jonathan is busy baking bread. That in addition to the distance between everyone makes it hard. But it will come together.

And why that name? I know where it comes from but just because you liked it or any special connection?

**Jonathan:** I thought of the name because like Alone in the crowd, WTF represents friends getting together who live some distance away, putting together a record that means something to us. Also AITC was very magical in the sense it was put together for the love of hardcore, of what hardcore meant to them. WTF is very different in style of course, but we hope to create some of the spirit that AITC did.

You released a 7" EP so far which in my eyes

is one of the best singles in 2005. How was the feedback you got to this record?

**Jonathan:** Feedback has been amazing, especially considering that there wasn't much time put into it.

**Mike:** For me it was kind of crazy. It was the first time I had done any "singing" in about 5 years. So I was not really sure how it would sound. The positive response we have gotten from friends and family has been so encouraging. That has made me really want to do more with these guys.

Indecision Records released the EP and Surprise Attack did the vinyl. How did you get together with the labels? Was that because you also released the "The Promise - Believer" on Indecision?

**Jonathan:** Indecision had our back from the start. Dave Mandel fully supports our efforts, so it was natural for us to work with him.

**Mike:** The funny thing is that I did not realize we had vinyl coming out until I went to my friend's baby shower. I saw Eric that night because he lives with Doug (High Roller Studios) and Jen. He told me he was putting out the vinyl. I could not be happier. He was in brothers' keeper so I was kind of star struck!

Do you know Dave Mandel from Indecision personally how's the connection between you and him? Did also other labels offer to release the record?

**Jonathan:** We've been friends with Dave from our past bands, and Dave is one of the most hardcore dudes I know. We didn't really consider other labels for this record.

**Mike:** I met Dave Mandel in 1990(?). There was a weekend of shows with Strife, Outspoken, Lifetime and Op. Front. I ended up in the back of his truck for some of it and at one point asleep on the floor at Kinko's while he was working. He is a genuine

Right now you are preparing / recording your upcoming full length record. When do you think will it come out and does it have a title yet? Can you already tell a bit about what to expect?

**Jonathan:** We're getting this think finished as we speak. The record should be out to June and will be titled 'Ghost Story'. This time around Ken Olden co-wrote the record with me, we each did six songs. I'm pretty psyched about it, and I think our writing styles complement each other well. It's definitely heavier than the EP, and more mid-tempo. It's a new chapter for Ken and I in song writing.

**Mike:** I just finished the vocals last week and I am very happy with the way it came out.

**Jonathan** and Ken wrote some amazing songs and I hope that I was able to compliment them.

If I look at your current lineup, then everyone of you has been playing in various bands and not just random bands but some of my most favorite bands of all times for ages. What keeps you going? And do you never lack inspiration?

**Jonathan:** It's fun and very natural for us to write music that we love. I'm always inspired to write new material when I have a chance, and so is Ken. Especially in a time now when music is formulated and boring due to the trend in cloning your musical style to get on the right labels. It really makes it easy for a band like us to stand out from the crowd.

**Mike:** I had a lot of personal issues that took many years to deal with. During that time, I did not have the confidence or motivation to play music. But it feels really natural to be writing and recording again. I feel more confident than I ever had before.

When you got into hardcore, what bands and what kind of attitude inspired you?

**Jonathan:** I grew up in California and went to shows at a place called G-Man St. in Berkley (North Cal.). I was into most of the bands from the late eighties to early nineties, from Instead to Agnostic Front. I think what made me come back to shows every time was a sense of involved with something so organic in music and politics. At the time there were no bands on the radio that sounded anything like it, hardcore was truly unique, you couldn't buy your Youth of Today shirt at Hot Topic, you had to go to a show.

**Mike:** What I liked most about the hardcore/punk scene was that I immediately felt like I belonged. At the time I was in 7th grade at a catholic school. I never related to any of my classmates. Of course I considered them friends, but there was something missing. I found that when I got into punk.

When you look at the scene now, do you still see bands that have that kind of true spirit? Are there any current hardcore bands that are inspiring for you?



**Jonathan:** There are still a few bands that carry that spirit: Bone, Madball, Death Threat, not too many out there though. We can only inspire ourselves.

**Mike:** There are so many great bands around now. I think all of us get most of our influence from older hardcore. But for me personally bands like Darkest Hour, Most Precious Blood, Fall Out, Boy, and Every Time I Die have been great inspirations to me to get out and be creative again. Those bands also never gave up and keep doing what they love.

**Who writes the lyrics and who wrote them for the 7inch?**

**Jonathan:** Mike wrote the lyrics on the EP, Ken also had a hand in it. The LP is 50/50 between Ken and Mike, I wrote one song.

**Mike:** Ken knows me pretty well, so I feel comfortable using his lyrics. Also, when he writes the songs he has a certain rhythm in mind and he is able to fit his lyrics exactly the way he likes.

In the 7inch there's one really strong sentence written. "A very special thanks goes out to the lack of originality, spirit and honesty in hardcore music out there." Where do you think does this lack of originality, spirit and honesty come from? And which bands or people are you addressing?

**Jonathan:** We weren't addressing it to any person or band specifically. Hardcore has come a long way now, kids get into it for different reasons than we once did. Years ago there was a big controversy over hardcore bands signing to major labels, no one ever thought it would come to this.

When I read the lyrics, I have to say that I take a lot of energy and strength out of these words and "Dernier Cri" definitely is the song that has probably the strongest and most memorable words. So this is my personal favorite. So it seems you have to become bitter about certain things in all these years. Was "Dernier Cri" inspired by a single event or was it more like a series of these kinds of events that made you write these lyrics.

**Mike:** I worked at a Hot Topic store for about 3 years. I am not into most of what they sell, but I think it can be a great tool for kids to check out new stuff that they would never have a chance to hear before. But it also has a downside. With stores like Hot Topic and the Internet it creates an instant scene. A lot of these kids have nothing invested in hardcore. But they come in and pass judgment on everyone else. I don't wear girls pants, make up or bandanas. I was sxe before most of these kids were born and I will be long after most of these kids sell out. Not everyone is like that though. The good outweighs the bad. Although it is the ones who are the most obnoxious who seem to have the most negative impact.

You, Jonathan, seem to be a big Alejandro Jodorowsky fan? Can you tell us something about

how you found out about his works and why you are so fascinated about them?

**Jonathan:** Well, Mr. Jodorowsky is a genius. His films are pure art with very tasteful political undertones, so are his comics. He's a very original thinker. One of his films "The Holy Mountain" in my opinion is one of the most important films ever made.

**Which books and movies did you read and see in the last time? Was there a book or a movie that had a big or major impact on your views and opinions?**

**Jonathan:** One of the coolest books I've read is called "Apocalypse Culture" by various authors, the name says it all. I love to read about human disaster of all types, and some classic horror fiction. As far as movies there are too many to mention, I just saw an Asian horror anthology called "Extremes" that was really good.

**What are you doing besides When Tigers Fight? How do you earn your money?**



**Jonathan:** I work a day job like many people, so does Mike. Ken lives the roll n roll fantasy of producing bands. Scott does tour management with bands.

**All of you are in your late 20ies or have already crossed the 30. Did growing older affect the way you see certain things. Like traveling the globe in a band and not making enough money for living on it?**

**Jonathan:** Yes, it really has. The older you get the more responsibility and expenses you have. When you're younger, you don't really care as much about getting into debt and ruining your credit (or at least I didn't).

**Mike:** Responsibility sucks!

I know this is a cliché question but I still ask it in almost any interview. The Promise was a straight edge band, so is your singer Mike McTernan, is When Tigers Fight also a straight edge band? The Promise was rather outspoken on that subject (ok I don't know if you're a sxe band you know but I still wanted to continue with that question) so if WTF are a sxe band, would you embrace the message in a similar way? (Shit, I know only you are from the promise. Maybe this question is stupid)

**Jonathan:** After we realized that we needed to get an active drummer for the band (Jarrod is not available to tour) we thought of finding an edge dude to solidify WTF as an edge band. The message will be established in a very cool way.

**Mike:** As I get older sxe is still an important part of my life. When I was growing up, bands would have lyrics about being sxe. At this point though, I would not feel comfortable writing like that. It is who I am and there is not much to say about it. For any song that is about sxe, I think I am approaching it in a different way. When we were recording the new record one of the songs made me think about all of our friends who have recently decided to take a different path in life. If someone decides that they are not happy when they are 30+ years old and believe that drinking is the solution, I begin to look at it as I have failed them as a friend.

**When you look back at the bands that you played in, how do they differ from When Tigers Fight? Is WTF something special for you because it's different people that you're playing with?**

**Jonathan:** WTF is definitely something fresh for me as far as playing with new people. Right now WTF is the kind of hardcore we feel like writing. For myself I think this project is a cool mix of some of the past bands I've done, but that comes naturally. It's also one of the first projects I've done that I have someone co-writing with me.

**How does it work out, e.g. writing songs, rehearsing. Considering that all of you are living in different places, (Syracuse, Washington DC, and Springfield)?**

**Jonathan:** When we did the full length, Ken and I pretty much had 20 minutes to teach each song to Jarrod in the studio. We didn't learn the record as a band. When we start to practice for shows we'll end up in a mutual location that works for everyone prob. D.C.

Right now that's all that came to my mind. In case you think I forgot something feel free to add more... Thanks a lot for taking the time to answer the questions.

**Jonathan:** Thank you & all the best.

[www.myspace.com/whentigersfight](http://www.myspace.com/whentigersfight)



# The Miracle

**Hi guyz! First and the most important question... What kind of Miracle we should expect when we hear your music or just go to your show?**

First of all I'm Gio and I'm TM bass player. Ahah no there is no miracle at our shows, expect only lots of energy, good music, stage dives, finger pointing and some good cover songs.. What can you ask for more to an HC show???

**Now please give us some important facts from your bands history.**

OK, The Miracle was born in January 2004 and we played our first show at the end of march of the same year. We were all coming from other bands but we all wanted to form a more serious and dedicated band. Before our short summer '04 German tour. Mauro from No More Fear joined the band as 2<sup>nd</sup> guitar. He left the band few months ago because he began to work full time and has no more time for 2 hard working bands. Now Ste replaced him and this is our current line-up: Fabio-voice, Fabry & Ste-guitars, Gio-bass, Stizzo-drums. From March '04 to nowadays we played several shows around Italy and Europe, we released an EP on Commitment Rec, a CD on No Mercy Rec and we appeared on so many compilation that I sincerely don't remember all of them.

**Your discography is not long but it kicks ass. As far as I know you have released one 7" on Commitment Records from Netherlands. How did you get in touch with this label?**

After we recorded our first promo we received a lot of good reviews and good words from many labels, and when Robert Commitment asked us to release an EP on his label we were stoked cause we were all grown up listening the records of this label, and so we agreed without thinking twice.

**And the same songs were released by No Mercy Records from Brazil. There are probably lots of kids who would love to buy your EP on CD and you will probably have just few of them for yourself. Don't you think that it would be better to release it on CD in Europe? Or maybe you're a fan of 7"?**

Yes I agree with you that many kids maybe will not be able to listen to our CD because it's not distributed in Europe, but we will have a good number of copies and so just contact us if you want one of them.

About the CD released in Europe.. We've been asked by some label to release a CD version of our True Spirit EP but we've never made it cause we think that it's not a loyal behavior towards Commitment records, if we realize a CD version they will have for sure some problem to sell all the 7 inches. Maybe we could think about doing a CD version when all the copies on

Commitment were sold, but now it's too late and we want to concentrate more on our full length.

**You are young band but your music is available on almost every continent. You have label in Europe, in South America and now I read that you will do some split CD for Japanese label FALLING LEAVES records. Let us know what's that going to be.**

Our good friend Daylight Seven Times( check them out, one of the best melodic punk rock bands around) this summer toured Japan and they told us it was an awesome experience and so we said like " hey we want to do the same!" and so we just send few mails to some Japan label and Falling Leaves records offered us to release a 3 way split with the two Japan bands Tonite and Cosmos, both modern old school bands. We hope that this CD will be a good presentation for a future Japan tour.

**I know that you were all playing in some hardcore bands before TXM. And you wrote in bio that you "were not 100% satisfied with this projects".**

**What was the reason of not being satisfied?**

Fabry and Stizzo were in Fumbles in Life, it was a good band but they played something like 3 shows in 2 years and so they left the band, Fabio had just left Shotgun Formation, great old school band with italian lyrics, because of some internal problems and I had just left Frontside but I don't remember why. We were all knowing each other for years and so we decided to form a new band with the main goal of playing around as much as possible and making the music we loved. For us HC is just playing around, knowing new people and bands, having fun and things like these. When we will not be able to do those things I think that we will call it quits.

**What is this spirit and commitment that you love? And do you think that nowadays there are lots of people who still believe in hardcore spirit?**

As I said in the answer before, for us HC is playing around, spreading our message in other countries, meeting new people and new bands and having new experiences. We don't believe in big festivals with tons of big bands, we don't believe into spreading our message outside our circuit, we hate bands acting like rockstars or shit like these. As we say in one of our new lyrics: hardcore "is not just words, at least for us". Fortunately in my opinion there are still a lot of people that share our same ideals, there are still a lot of kids working hard for having cool shows, working for they're scene and they're not doing it for money or fame but just because they love HC.

**Now some questions about your only release. Who write your lyrics? And what are they about?**

Fabio writes most of the lyrics, but also Fabry and me write some lyrics. Our lyrics deal with different arguments, Fabio's are more concentrate on his

personal life and experiences, mine are more about social and politics arguments, but we have also some lyrics about our view of HC music and scene.

**What kind of feedbacks you got for your release?**

We received a lot of good responses, we had good reviews and we sell a lot of copies of the EP. As you said having it also in CD format would be better because more kids would be able to listen to it, but now it's too late to think about that.

**In past 2-3 years I see different kind of fashions on the scene. What do you think of all that stuff named fashioncore? Do you really think that "gossips pass, fashions pass but true spirit remains"?**

Sincerely I really don't know what fashion core is, there has always been some fashion in our scene and there will always be, but I don't care too much because only people that are into HC for the right reasons will be there in the next 2-3 years and all the others that were into it only cause they think it's cool will be gone for sure.

**What do you think about this metalcore fashion?**

**There are so many metalcore bands around and they almost all play the same... Do you think the same thing is in old school business? Maybe people don't talk about it so much cause we don't see all those old school bands on MTV or other commercial medias?**

It's for sure also an old school thing, nowadays we have a sort of old school revival with a lot of new old style bands rising and you can see at shows a lot of kids dressed like they are still in the '88. When I first got into old school hardcore everybody was into emo-metal, and all old school bands were quite dead because the youth crew revival of bands like TYF, In My Eyes, Floarpunch was just finished and for something like 4 years there wasn't any decent old school band. Now it's the same, with a lot of old school bands playing the same style of music, but maybe in 2-3 all these bands will be gone and there will be a new fashion.

**Now let's talk a bit about your near future... I know that you will release some stuff this winter by Still Life Recs. How did you get on this label? And do you think this is the right one? And what kind of stuff we can expect from new full length?**

Yes our full length will come out in March/April on Still Life records. We know Fra and Luca @ SL for many years, we are all from the Milan area and we all started to go to shows in the same years. We are very happy about working with them because we know how they work and SL is for sure one of the most promising label in Europe. A lot of our friends told us like "hey it's a good label but it's too metal for you", in fact we're the only old school band on their current roster but we don't care about that, we know that they are 2

very hard working guys and that's the most important thing for us. Our new stuff is quite different from the EP, it's less "hard" and more melodic, we've been very influenced for the new songs by bands like Champion, Verse, early With Honor and so on... but it's still 100% powerful old school hardcore.

**And soon you go to some shows in France and Spain. Is it hard for you to play outside Italy? Or maybe it's better?**

No it's not too hard, we played a lot of times outside Italy and in particular we've been several times in Germany... maybe sometimes it's better because often venues and shows are more organized abroad than here, and you get treated always very well, but now in Italy things are getting better and so we played some awesome shows also here recently.

I'm really looking forward to play in Poland because all the bands that came there tell me that kids are crazy and people is great everywhere, and I'd like also to go to Scandinavia 'cause it would be an awesome experience.

**If we are at shows subject I wanted to ask you about you best band that you have ever seen live?**  
Wow cool question... for me I think it was a Champion show, maybe the 2<sup>nd</sup> time they came in Europe with CBK, we were also playing that show and it was a blast from the first note to the end. Ahh also a Spirit 84 show here near Milan many years ago.. It was one of my first real hardcore show and it was something I'll never forget.

**What are 3 most important things in hardcore for you (not just in hardcore music but also in whole**

**movement)**

- 1) playing live
- 2) DIY
- 3) friendship

**I do understand that you are straight edge band. And that you take XXX seriously. How does sxe affect your life? Do you sometimes feel like giving it up?**

We're not a sxe band, actually only 3/5 of us is edge, 2 are not or no more. At the beginning a lot of people considered us as sxe band because we were all edge or drug free, but we've never wrote any lyrics about straight edge or never claimed to be a straight edge band.

**And what about vegetarianism/veganism? Are you meat free? And if yes please let me know why?**

In the band we have 2 vegetarian, 1 vegan and 2 meat eaters. I've asked to Ste, the only vegan in the band, to answer this question: "I got into veganism 3 years ago and this choice mean so much to me, not just as a food and lifestyle change but as an inner change overall. It's not only a matter of respect towards animals, it's the first step to respect the land we live. I think it's wrong being vegan without respecting yourself like getting drunk every night or taking drugs, it's something that must start and grow within."

**Italy is known from good football team. I am not into Italian style but I know many persons who are. Tell me why Italian football is so defensive? Do Italian people behave also so defensive in life?**

I think that we have such a defensive game cause we have the best defensive players in the world, I think

that no other national team has great defensive players like Nesta, Zambrotta, Cannavaro or a goalkeeper like Buffon. For me Italian football is for sure the most defensive and maybe the most boring, but it's also the most technical, tactic and difficult.

No I don't think that we have the same mentality, actually I think that Italian people is too much expansive and not enough "defensive"... I don't know if I've explained it well.

**And what do you think are chances for your national team for World Championship?**

Wow, for me we have some chances but not too many, we have a hard tournament and if we arrive 2<sup>nd</sup> in it we'll have to play with Brazil...

I think we have more chances to win the Euro Championship.

**I will get back to music... What have you guys listened to lately?**

Lately I'm not listening to too much HC music simply because I can't find any new record I'm into a lot, anyway right now I'm into the new Blacklisted, The Betrayed EP and new The Difference CD, they're a very good old school band from Rome, we played at their release party few weeks ago and it was a blast.

**Anything to add...**

Thanx a lot to you xAdamx and to all the The Heat Zine crew for this interview, we hope to meet all of you in Poland.

Check out the CD edition of our "True Spirit EP" and expect our full length album on Still Life Records for March/April, Thanx a lot!

[www.thexmiracle.com](http://www.thexmiracle.com)



**From time to time the routine of band interviews should be interrupted by some words from the people behind the scenes those guys and girls that are doing the work that nobody sees like driving bands around, setting up shows, doing labels and stuff. So here's one of those people that bring your favourite bands to your favourite venue. Ondra is a driver for hardcore bands and I thought he should talk a bit about his experiences.**

**Ok, let's start with a short introduction... Who are you and how long have you been driving bands around?**

**My name is Ondra and i work/have fun as van driver for bands touring around Europe. I've been doing it since three years ago now.**

**Are you out on the road for the whole year?**

**Well it depends, but it is kinda wish for the most of the drivers around to be on the road all the time. Of course everybody needs to take a break once in a while to regenerate his/her physical and which is even more important psychical sources of the energy. But driving is kind of drug and if you don't mind to live in sort of punk way instead of comfort of your own apartment, you simply feel after sometimes few days, sometimes even just few hours being back home that it sucks and you need to get out again to be on the road, where do you feel way better.**

**How did you come across becoming a van driver? Did you like travelling or did you already roadie for some bands you know? How did everything start?**

**My first tour ever was in 2002 with the band called Kevorkian. They were friends of mine and took me with them as the part time driver/roadie on their five weeks long tour. It proved my ability to live on the road for the very first time. I liked to hang out with friends, have fun, meet some new people, see shows every night. It was like being on vacation...**

**After this one there was one more tour with the same band with me already as the driver, because i wanted to go on tour again and didn't want to be only sitting in the van and have nothing to do...**

**There is this company called Nomads of Prague which i started to work for in 2003. In the beginning i drove for a lot of mainstream czech bands that are doing only weekend shows over here or play festivals in the summer but 99% of them never goes anywhere abroad which is interesting to see because there is a huge difference in the way of thinking of those who had chance to go somewhere else and see they are just nothing among thousands of other bands trying to do the same and then you have these on the opposite side who will never cross the border of their country because they do actually pretty well where they are (which is also thing i'll probably never understand why in my life). These tend pretty much to behaving like a big stars but it results in totally awkward matter in the most cases. On the other hand it is quite a good lesson for your patience when you spend some time together with them and i'm sure it helped me in**

**training my nerves a lot.**

**Driving for touring hardcore bands was the next step. For the first time i was asked to do the first 2 days of Stretch Arm Strong tour because Martin who is their driver on all their european tours wasn't able to do it. After this i toured with one band that just put out debut record on my label so it was more like service for the guys i wanted to help to. Everything from that point was already regular driving for touring bands.**



**Why driving in a van and not doing the usual stuff like playing in a band, doing a label, writing for a zine?**

**I've started with all that stuff of course. Trying to start the band for couple of times is really not a thing to mention. I've never been musician so it was more like the wish you want to fulfill at the certain point of your life even though you have very poor musical background. So very soon i felt this is not the right thing to do.**

**In 1998 i booked my first show after years of being scene kid together with my mate Tomas (also driver). We still do it but less often, because there always has to be somebody else to take care of the gigs during the time we're on tour. The number of gigs we've booked together is getting now very close to 100.**

**Doing printed zine was another thing after booking shows we started to work on. Zine was called Reskator and it is only few months ago we definitely gave up the chance there is gonna be any other issue of it. It took**

**us too long time to put it all together and we've also lost the power due to different priorities. But i still work for czechcore.cz which is the only czech hardcore webzine.**

**I had the label too, put out 6 releases on it but ended up at the point where all this work started to be on way too much business level and it wasn't the course i wanted to keep it going. There wasn't that nice feeling anymore when you're bringing the new release from the plant.**

**It is evident that all this has also something to do with my driving. There is no time to hold control over all these activities when you are on the road and my will and power not big enough to work on it when i'm at home in between tours. That is not possible and you have to choose between.**

**If you look back, how many tours and approximately how many kilometres have you been driving?**

**I've done like 16 tours, the most of them 4-5 weeks long. Now i drive more kilometres a month than i did before a year. It has never been less than 15 000km a month.**

**Now here are some questions for posing around :)**

**What was the longest distance / drive you did in a row? What was the longest tour you did so far? Which band was the most annoying and you never want to work with them again?**

**The longest drive in a row was the beginning of Hatesphere/Morbid Angel tour. I went to pick up Danish dudes in their hometown Aarhus. I slept somewhere on the gas station close to Berlin, woke up at noon, drove up to Arhus, picked up the band in the evening, drove to Dortmund for the merch and continued to Rennes in France, where was the first show of that tour. That was 2 200 km total.**

**As i wrote 5 weeks is the max. that bands i toured with had. But sometimes you just drop the band and go to pick up another. The last year I had three tours like this in a row so i was on the road for 81 days. I really needed to take a break after this:-)**

**The worst was the Hatesphere tour, because Morbid Angel had nightliner and we did the same in the van. It means 6 dudes constantly for 33 days in the van driving overnight after every gig, sleeping in there during the entire tour with no chance to have some time for yourself, that was the moment when i reached the very bottom of myself, my energy. The point when even talking is unbearably backbreaking.**

**What were the most funny, annoying, emotional moments you experienced while you were out on the road?**

**Looking back there are two funniest moments on the same level so i'll give you both of them. The first one happened on one of the first tours i did. We were heading from Wroclaw somewhere to Germany. Who knows this way in direction Dresden also knows the big part of it goes through small villages where is not**

**ONDRA**

**BERNES**

**HEAT**

much interesting things to see around and also not that many gas stations or at least lay-by areas on this way. All of a sudden roadie sitting on the last bench asked pretty easily for making a prompt stop because he shit in his pants. Nobody took any attention to his joke and took it as his asking for making a visit of the nearest bathroom. So did I. After few minutes he repeated his request and sounded kinda nervous. That made somebody from the band to ask him if he is serious about it. He was! He really had to leave his only pants that day in the wood next to the road... The second one is related to the Comeback Kid merch guy Kyle. After he lost his passport only few minutes later his feet had touched the european land for the first time there was another tough moment waiting for him on this uncool continent. After we played the gig in Italy we had to drive overnight to Dornbirn, Austria. I stopped on the gas station, one of the last ones in Italy to fill up the tank. Kyle jumped out as he was in his sleeping bag only in shorts and T-shirt although it was the end of November and the weather in the Alps close to the Brenner wasn't that hot. But it was just quick stop. I paid for the gas, jumped in the van and asked the question if there is anybody missing because it was impossible to count the bodies covered with sleeping bags in the back of the van. The drummer checked the van and said we had everybody in. We left, crossed the Brenner and 30km after Innsbruck i had the phonecall from booking agent laughing that we left Kyle on that gas station. We drove almost 100km back, picked up Kyle who looked like a piece of ice cream, we crossed the Alps for the third time and when i parked in front of the venue in Dornbirn nobody except for me and Kyle knew anything about this nice sightseeing trip through early morning Alps.

One of the most annoying moments was more annoying for the band than for myself but i think i can speak for them and they would agree with me. The last show of the tour and the only one in the U.K. was in London. Since every band member of this metal band i drove for took entire powerhouse for amplification with him, we had 600kg overweight above the limit. Right after the ferry ride to Dover, there was police patrol on one of the roundabouts. They saw immediately the van is damn loaded when we were passing by their car. After few moments i saw them driving behind us. They stopped us. After we had to pay 90 euro for the same overweight right the first day on the same tour in France i was sure what is this all gonna be about... We had to follow them through some small villages far away from the highway to London because they wanted to take us for a nice trip through the beautiful countryside with the highlight of it at the very end on the weight bridge. Of course we had the same overweight as in the beginning of the tour. The procedure in the U.K. is different from France so instead of some more money on the top of our tour budget they gave us nice form about impossibility of going anywhere else under the same conditions from this point in the middle of nowhere. The only chance how to get out of there was getting rid of some kilograms. We started with cleaning the van but although we seemed to have the van full of cases of beer it was still really far from 600kg. There was nothing else we could throw away until we tried to weight the van without 5 band members with 5 big merchbags. That was exactly the limit weight we had to achieve. I'm sure the guys were sober in a second when they realized this is the only way how to get in



time to the venue with all our stuff and nothing left on the street. They had to walk to the nearest village, take a bus to Folkestone and to go by train from there to London.

The most emotional moment... definitely breaking up with somebody you love while being on tour with no chance to change it because you're too far away. Think it doesn't need any story to it.

**If it's not too personal, what about relationships? Is it possible for you to keep a steady relationship or doesn't that work out?**

When you're on the road, you have so much time to think about all this stuff and to sort out all your feelings and needs. I can't generalize this and speak for every driver but almost all of those i know have the same problem and they're struggling with relationships. I'm not any exception.

It is easy for somebody else to put all the blame on you of course, because you're the one who is often too far away and leaving this person again and again so you're in constant suspicion your love is not strong enough if you're able to get out for one month couple of times a year. What is the result of it you can imagine. But there are always two people in relationship so the problem is never one sided. You just have to find the right person. It is way harder than in case you'd be sitting somewhere in the office back home but still I hope it is possible to find the balance even if i haven't found it so far.

**What kind of belongings do you always have with you? Without which things or devices don't you leave for a tour?**

After a couple of tours you're able to reduce all the stuff you really need to minimum so to put all that together is question of maybe one hour. When you have some people you like, your friends, no matter where do they live laptop is the thing that helps you to keep in touch with them. You're breaking your friendships enough anyway by being always somewhere else so this is important for me. Plus i use it for GPS navigation as well. It is so easy to get used to it. I love it!

I like shows photography so another thing i take with me is my digital camera. It is so pity you have no chance to take pictures of all the nice sceneries you see through the window around while driving.

**Do you work regularly for certain booking agencies or do you get offers from anyone or do you approach the bookers?**

I mostly work for Avocado booking. It gave me the chance to drive for many bands i really like. I also work with guys from Deadbutcher booking. But i have to take some other tours from different sources as well to be able to pay the bills.

**Which records must be available in the van (probably as mp3 :)? And why did you choose them?**

I'm still true to CDs in the van. To be honest I don't really need to listen to some more music on the road during the tour. When you can see show every night it is better to have some moments without music at all. Just quiet... I listen to the music on the stereo in the van only when i'm driving alone. I don't want to bother anybody with music I like because every person has different taste for music. That is why personal players are the way better option, if you want to listen to something.

I have the case full of CDs always with me on the road in which has to be some hiphop stuff for sure. Once i did a tour when the band turned on the stereo in the morning, played only hardcore and turned it off in front of the venue. After that you listened to some music in the venue from the PA and the show of course. That was insane! So this is the reason for some more relaxed stuff.

On the other hand when going overnight to pick up the band on the airport I like to listen some faster or moshy metal stuff. It makes the long drive not so boring.

**Do you have a company and are you the only person running it? What's the name of it?**  
The company is only me and my van.

**What were the best shows you experienced on a tour?**

The best ones of the bands i toured with probably Bleeding Through shows on the tour with Cult of Luna in Kontich and London and Himsa/3 Inches Of Blood in Budapest and Aberdeen. If you want some other bands i've had chance to see on tour and they kicked ass then Motorhead and Turbonegro on Fury fest falls on my mind right now...

**Ok, so thanks for taking the time to answer my questions. Feel free to add or say anything you want to...**

Thank you for the interview and hope to see you around on the road.

# THE IDORU

## HOPELESS ILLUSIONS

**Hi! My name is Adam... Can you please introduce yourself and rest of the band...**

Hi everyone, this is Tibi, the guitar player of The Idoru. We are a five piece rock band from Budapest, Hungary. Lac - the scourge of drummers, Big - my other half, Matyi - the master of 5 string bass and Andy, who makes everyone cry with his unique voice.

**Let's start with some questions about the past. I was always big fan of Newborn. Yours CDS rule till this day. And I think that there will never be a band like Newborn. How do you see this part of you musician career?**

This is the question I must always answer, hehe... Let's see. It is the past already, and there is a good saying: let the past be the past! It was cool and we learned a lot from those times.

There was two part of essence in that band. The music and the message. Zoli (the singer of Bridge To Solace) represented the message and I represented the music of Newborn. I never felt like if something had come to an end since I do my music activities, even tough The Idoru is the third main band of mine in my „career”. So

I think if Newborn would exist these days, the music would be like The Idoru', message would be like BTS'. I can recommend that everyone should be open to be able to accept new things, even these are a bit different.

**Why did Newborn stop playing? Have you ever regretted this decision?? And have you thought about reunion of N.?**

Not yet. You know, I see many bands around who did reunions, especially in hardcore, for example the old time famous bands. If they do it from heart, then OK, but I think there are more reasons behind the surface. Making new records and shit, go on tour, selling merch stuff at price that's out of reach... Is it creditable to return to something that stopped working once? It is like you refresh a relationship with an ex. Does it make any sense? Isn't that more rational, and make sense to walk on new ways, advance new experiences? I think business is taking a big part of the decision of most of bands who reunited.

You know what? If the reunion of Newborn will bring us big money, then sure you will see us on the stage, and we will make you believe that's from the heart, hahaha!!!

**As far as I remember The Idoru was formed about 2003. Why did you decide to create new band? And did you know what kind of music you will be playing?**

When Newborn have split up, we came to a conclusion that it was not correct to keep the name, cause the band was mostly identified with Zoli, and without him the band could not grow this high. He was not with us anymore, so we changed the name. We trusted in our creativity and wanted to do that we imagined, that we wished for. Due to hard and „long-suffering” work, The Idoru is not an unknown band anymore. We always knew, and know what music we do, and why. And we also know about the consequences of the music we represent. Nowadays the hc is metalcore orientated, we have to face it. We still hang out in this scene, work together with hc labels and promoters. Fortunately we got enough sign and good reviews not to be sad. We do a lot for what we believe in, and the

feedback is positive.

**About year later you have released MCD entitled "After The Storm" under Japanese label Alliance-Trax. Was that CD released in Europe or just in Asia? What kind of feedback did you get on this MCD?**

The Japanese liked us so much. This mini CD was only released out there. We sold several copies in Europe as well, and the response was good enough. The new EP includes two of these songs in the multimedia section besides the videoclip. Check it out dudes!

**In 2005 European label called Burning Season Records released your full-length entitled „Brand New Way, Brand New Situations”. And it was also released in Japan by Alliance-Trax. And I think that thanks to this CD you started to be one of the best-known bands in Europe. What this CD has changed in your music, in you?**

Yeah, that's right. Thanx for Patrick and Daiki to start, to put us in action. Without them, we might be very very minor. On this first album we were a bit experienced. The result was a spherical creation, that showed to the public it is better to keep a good eye on The Idoru. We were satisfied with this album at that time. All our knowledge in 2004 can be heard on that record. A little curiosuty to the fans of Newborn. More than a half part of the first album of The Idoru was written in those times when Newborn was still alive... I swear, cause I wrote it, hahaha!!!

We wanted to do more melodic stuff and make less parts in the songs. By this time we became more mature, and made such songs that can express our feelings and thoughts more properly.

**I think that big part of your success (cause I think you are successful band) are live shows. You are playing many of them. What shows give you, I mean as for a band? How do you feel when you are on stage playing in front of new people in country you have never been to?**

As every band, we also prefer playing shows, where we can be impressive. Yeah, maybe we are a successful band, I do not know, we just do what we are aware of, and time will tell... There is nothing more exhilarating than giving a very good show on such place where you have never ever been before, and after the show people who you have never ever seen come to have a chat or something, buy some merch. We met a lot of situation,



when we saw on the tour schedule a place we will play, and the name sounded like what??? And the navigator needed to use a viewer to find it on the map. You can not imagine who else will show up except some dogs, cows, pigs or something. And after the first chord of the show was done, everyone got crazy, singing along the lyrics... Man, that is such a great feeling, I can not tell. So we are ready to get to new places, give some precious experience for the people with our „art”.

**New year (2006) gives us your new stuff. Fresh music for open-minded people. "Hopeless Illusions" released by DeadButcher Recs in Europe. Tell us what can we expect from this CDEP?**

A little notice: If you are a close-minded guy, no problem, your girlfriend will like the music of The Idoru for sure! Yeah, if someone wants to feel the message of the music we spread, first have to sit down, relax, and listen to the parts. That's it. After the third trying if our stuff can not draw your attention, then OK, stop trying with it. The Idoru is based on melodies, like a lot of bands. Most of all these melodies are kind a sad, joyless, also the lyrics. But every aspect of feelings can be found on this EP, not to mention the upcoming second album. We almost finished the songs. So if you guys get the new EP of The Idoru, you will not get disappointed with it, this I can tell.

**I have noticed that all your CDS were released also in Japan. Do you want to release your newest baby also there? Is The Idoru popular in Japan? Have you ever been there? What kind of feedbacks do you get from this country?**

The release in Japan is under discussion yet. The labels are not fans of the EPs, cause it is harder to sell. Whatever... the second album will be released there for sure. We did a tour in there already, and it was great! Maybe the most CDS of the first album were sold there. So after the second album we go back to Japan and make „revolution”, hehehe... The Japanese like good



music and good performance, so we do not have to be afraid, cause the latest tour succeeded very good.

**Let's talk about music. How do you see your music? Does the music help you to free your emotions? I do see evolution process from 1st EP till the newest one. I can see that your music is hard to describe cause I can feel those feelings that you have put in it and I can't find words to express it.**

The music of the band is evolving. This EP can not tell much about the final form. Maybe there is no final form at all. People could make conclusions what songs they could find on the next album after the first MCD in 2003. And this is the same now. You can figure out what music you will listen on the next stuff. The „Hopeless Illusions” is a link between the two albums, it is kinda bridge, a bridge maybe to solace, hah... I do not like comparisons and neither categorized things.

If you wanna grab the Idoru, it will slip out from your hands as fast as hard you try. This is the worst and the best thing in in our band.

**How could you describe your music anno domino 2006? I was wondering about that and I thought about something like: "rock music full of passion and emotion", what do you think about that?**

Hmmm... I think it is simply rock with interesting parts. A lot of styles are mixed in the songs.

I guess music is one of the best ways to live through passion, to express emotions. Passion is the very

serious part of my activities, and I use it in music as the source of creativity. Every person who is fond of hard rock music, has a broken soul a bit. Think about it! If you show hard music, full with loud, distorted riffs that you like to a „normal” person, you will seem like a fool, hehehe... But on the other hand I think it is the most positive way to release yourself under the aggression, anger and negative energies. It is better to listen to hard music, than fighting on streets or something.

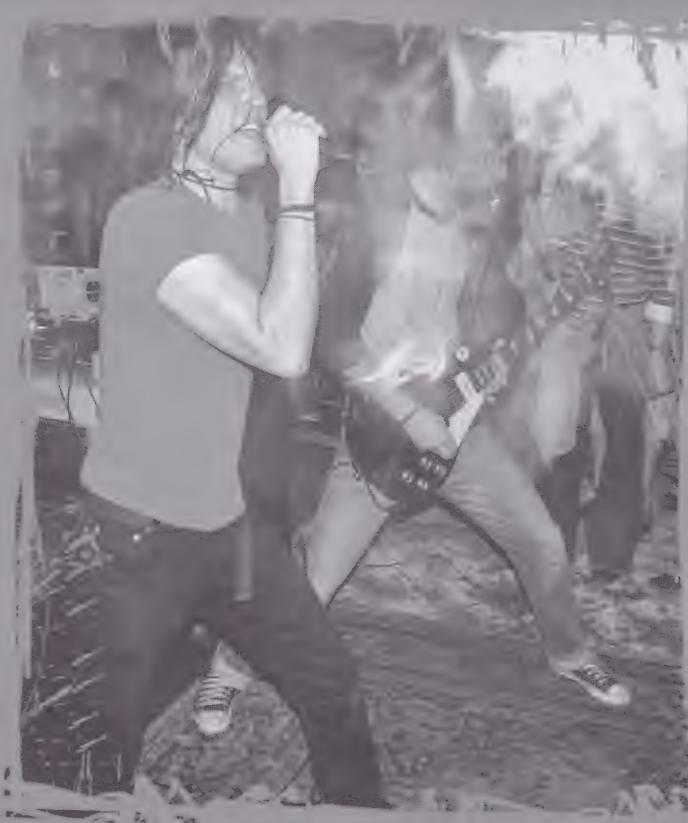
Even The Idoru belongs to such deviant bands those play loud, hard, disturbing music for the major's ears. In despite of the clean vocals and stuff, we are not „normal” either.

**On "Hopeless Illusions" you have added new aspects to your music like: piano, crazy drum passes, acoustic guitar parts... I do not remember this kind of stuff from your earlier releases. Why you decided to add these elements? Or maybe was that something natural?**

There are parts in the songs what called for something to add. Piano, acoustic guitar were the most appropriate instruments to made the song complete. We like to spice up a song, if it is needed. On the last album there is a song called „Knocking around”. It was completed with violin, and it is simply great!

**Who writes your lyrics? And if you can please write what are the lyrics about on your new EP in few words!**

The lyrics are born from Andy's and my cooperation. I have the talent to write thoughts, feelings down, and he has the talent to fill it with melodies, emotions, life. When he writes some lines, it can motivate me, I make some rhyme, make it complete. Every song is about different things. We like to talk about what we feel, what we think, what we believe in, based on our experiences. A lot of songs of ours are about change, progression, and about desolation. Our lyrics generally throw back dark mood. You know, everyone gets slaps from life when trying to get higher, when fighting for your purpose, your ideas. Sometimes you just chase a „Hopeless Illusion” and at the end, you just realized, all your efforts were in vain. But on the bottom of our dark lyrics, there is a positive message: That could not kill ya, will make you stronger and wiser! In the future we maybe sing about happiness, but first we must go



through much difficulties to feel comfortable to write songs about party, fun, kissing and love, hehehe...

**You have added to your CD some extra stuff. First of all hidden track. Whose idea was creating of this song? And do you like it? Maybe you like this remixed version more than original one and that's why you put it on the EP??**

To tell the truth, we have enough of rock-hc-punk. In our plan we will do a rave-techno project, and we will make a big profit on Andy's face and ass. Belonging to the electronical music mess as a „DJ and his fellows” or something like this, is more profitable than playing shows in underground clubs, to go on back-breaking tours. We like this remix version much more than the original, cause the original one sucks! So, this is a little prologue of our upcoming project. Of course I'm kidding dudes, hahaha... It was a common idea to put this stuff/made by the drummer (Lac), among the tracklist. It is simply funny, nothing more.

**And you have also added video for track "Lack Of Credibility" and two songs from your demo. I like your video very much. It is different from what I have seen up today. Does it have any hidden meaning? I mean all those trees, leaves and disappearing drum set...**

It was just an idea of the director of the clip. He is a very talented young guy, and it was a pleasure to work with him ([www.irmedia.hu](http://www.irmedia.hu)). There is not any conscious meaning behind the conception. It is just great and not a usual, typical clip, but a unique one in this scene, as The Idoru is.

**This EP was released by DeadButcher Recs. It is your 2nd European label. Why have you decide to change label? And why have you chosen DBR?**

Cause BSR did not make as much promotion as much should have been made, this is the reason. We are concerned if that label would have made a serious promotion, we could be way better position now. But anyway, we thank BSR for releasing the first album in Europe. We felt the influence of the label's job on the European tour, so we do not complain, but we thought we had better to change. We knew Mikita, cause Deathbutcher is our booking agency, and due to the good personal relation, and cause of his very good approach to the band, we have trust in him. Also now he is working hard to make us more known. We will see how this cooperation works in the future.

**You exist on hardcore scene but your music is less and less connected with hardcore music. How do you find yourself on this scene?**

We feel fine after every gig where the public can accept the energy of „art” of ours. After every successful show we are happy, no matter the place, scene, or whatever. But! You know it is hard to stand on, when the metalcore keenly conquers. Most of the people became more metal orientated in the HC, and the newcomer bands have many of the metalcore influences. It is not a secret that our music has nothing to do with this type of music, and maybe once neither with HC scene. Unless, if the metalcore goes out of fashion and the major will be interested in melodies again. Till then we must get in touch with other people to work with, a bit different audience, otherwise we will kill

ourselves for sure with our so-called art.

**Emotions... your music is full of emotions and moods. How important are emotions in our lives? And do you think you are rather emotional person or maybe you are cold bastard? ;)**

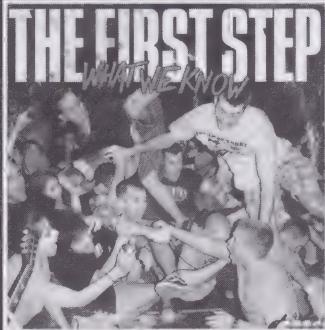
Man, we are the coldest bastard you ever met! Worse than the one who steal your soul in your dreams, cause we never give it back! Just listen to our new EP, and your soul is ours forever and can't get rid off The Idoru anymore! How emotional are we? Hmm...you should ask our girlfriends, they better know it, haha... I prefer to be rational, to be conscious than live blindly driven by emotions. But the rest of the band are more emotional, too emotional for me, so I easily can hurt them by accident. So sorry dudes, hehe! Nevertheless, I think you can not live in harmony, if one side misses. I feel fine, when I live my life 60% in the sign of consciousness, and 40% by emotions. The others are the opposite, not to mention Andy!

**I think that's all...Thank You very much for interview! If you want to add anything be my guest :)**

Thanx for this interview! If you guys notice that The Idoru will play in the near, do not miss out! We wanna get new „slaves”...

**[www.theidoru.com](http://www.theidoru.com)  
[www.myspace.com/the\\_idoru](http://www.myspace.com/the_idoru)**

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**Inhated is a special band for me. I met their drummer on Es La Guerilla & Knockoutz tour in Poland about two years ago. And from that time I keep in touch with this crazy guy. At the beginning of January Inhated released their new baby called "10 Seconds Before Sunrise" on Several Bleeds Records. And that was the impulse for this interview! Check out what Junior Rodriguez has to say and then check out their 2 CDS! Go for it boyz and girlz!**

**What's up with bees?? You have it almost everywhere. On t-shirt, CD, on your web site and even on trailer. And you wrote that they are around us. Please explain this phenomena, OK?**  
 Ahahaha that's right ! Sure they are around us ! Don't you see them ? well this is a symbol, you know bees are vicious, it hurts, and it's like beaaaaargh bees !!! lol But that's not all.. We chose this insect because it's a good symbolic of the actual society. Frustration, violence, cruelty, vice... we took all the facts we hate in society and world everything that can be everyone's reject and given to the bee. So you have the bee on your shirt, you have all the society's rejects on your shirt. It's like you know in Africa the "marabous" take a doll and inject on it all the malefic things to keep it out from you. That's quite the same thing.. More than it's not a singular bee... it's the African one.. They can kill you. Some friend of mine has been killed by them in Portugal a few years ago.. So I think it was the perfect symbol of hate and rejects for me and the rest of the band.

**I haven't heard about you lately...What you have been doing for a last year?**

Well, the last year have been crazy for us.. Many things to do, create new songs, we've been locked up in our Studio for quite 7 months without going too much outside, we didn't play to many shows in Paris, and many friends was worried about us lol... But it was to prepare the new album, the shows and everything around this with the label and managers around us. Some big coordination had to be done. Now it's OK and it's becoming to be the best for us. Don't worry we're OK dude ;)

**I know that Inhated is well known in France and it's better and better known in Europe. But please for all the people who have never heard the name write some facts from your history (when did you start a band, where are you from, line-up etc )**  
 Yes that's cool, here in France the band is growing and growing and we're glad that our fans follows us more than ever. The band started in December 1999 in our Hometown: Paris, I guess a good date to start

a band: 1 January 2000 was the real beginning. Cub was playing with some friends some new metal music where my brother was playing bass guitar, and I was starting drums with 2 friends playing Sepultura covers, then Cub went to see some friends (Fate) practicing, they was playing some brutal death metal and it was awesome, the same day he came to see me play at another studio lol, I was 14. So it's was some kind of... crappy metal lol. Then the same night he called me saying: hey dude I want to make a band with you and play some fucking violent metal ! So I was like: hmm well I'm starting drums dude, he said I'm starting guitar too dude ! So let's go ! And the same night I called my friends and said: well I leave you guys I have something important to do with Cub. Then after that we practiced a lot together with many different musicians, we played black, death metal, grind. Many styles and finally we found the way we prefer with the best musicians we've ever found, Feus.t, K.G, 2frais (that finally entered the band 4 years after) we recorded 2 CD's before : "Storming The Underground" in 2001 but never released. It was our first experience in studio, 2 days recording 5 songs, and "Oleno" in 2003, it was our first real experience in studio, really cool, two weeks of recording in Paris during the summer 2004. Now the first real album "10 Seconds before sunrise", we played with many international bands like Converge, Mastodon, Daughters, Gojira all over France. Now we're starting to conquer the rest of the world with this first album. Here we go....

**And what does the name of the band mean to its members? What does the word Inhated stand for?**  
 The word Inhated is a singular American name, it seems like: nobody loves you, you are Inhated, it's like In Hatred but united in one word. We chose this name with Cub because at this time we were trying to practice some music strange and different for most people around us, it can be applied for us because for the listeners of commercial music we were like demons, and for the people that don't want to understand us and are following the everyday society : if you read this you must know we Hate you so you can hate us as well!

**At beginning of 2006 you will release your new album called "10 Seconds Before Sunrise". What is going on 10 sec. before sunrise?**

This album is our first full length release, it's like a new born, we feel new and back under another blue sky, new music it's a kind of self revolution for the band, we discovered a new face and new kind of playing, we learned with this album to have a real pleasure creating and playing this music. Finally I think that this album shows our personality, it's like a mirror but in music, when you look yourself in the mirror you see yourself... but more than a picture you see a life and a spirit behind this. That's the same in music, it's our body playing but our feelings creating and thinking on it. So it's just the beginning of this revolution, that's why 10 seconds before sunrise, the sunrise is coming but not already here, you can see it far away but you don't already see the sun. This title doesn't talk directly about the music, but the story about the recording and the band at the time of recording it. The number 10 is essential.

**I just heard one song from your upcoming album but I read your lyrics and I would like to ask you about them first. I found you lyrics personal and not to optimistic ("My god all is rotten, around me my world is falling.") Why is it so?**

Yes you can say that.. It's really not optimistic, the lyrics of this album are more personal and intimate, our lives and the whole band's life has been a bit difficult last year, many personal problems affected the band. So Against My temple is the song of the album, it talks about frustration you can feel in this kind of society, because you are different or you don't accept society's choices and everyday situations. You know it's like when you're on the underground in Paris, waiting for the train, and in 10 seconds time (lol good number...) you can see about 500 people passing around you without nobody looking at you, the current world goes at 10000 miles and if you're not strong in your head it can destroy you, that's why most of the Parisians feel alone even if they have friends, because in the middle of this population you are nothing, just a number or an element that make the society live and continue. That's why the world is falling... all is rotten... If one day you come to Paris just try to sit down on the middle of "Les Champs Elysées" avenue between the cars and you will see... it's a really strange feeling...

**I wanted to ask about lyrics to tracks called "Mama, they bring me back home in a box part 1 & 2". What are they about?**

It talks about a young guy that goes to war, first he's happy like you see in the typical American films talking about Vietnam... You know when the guys are in the 4x4 cars with whiskey and music the rock n'roll life of war... he is happy because he is going to protect his country so one day he wakes up and says to his mother: all right mom ! I'm going to Vietnam! She cries but he is happy... then the first part talks about his travel to Vietnam and the first days there... at the end of the song, the enemy shoots him... he only have a few minutes to live, so he writes a letter to his mom. Then the second part of the song starts and lyrics are his letter to his mom. It's really sad. But that happened for a million boys... But finely everybody knows what it is... And everyone knows what to say to his mom in

this situation... For the rest listen to the CD and read the lyrics... ;)

**Now about music... how long it took you to record new tracks?**

It took 6 months and quite a year, we did the pre-productions at our studio closed-up between November and March, then we entered the Sainte Marthe studio in Paris on 26 of April for one month of recording and mixing and we got out at the beginning of June. Then the CD went to West West Side Music (New Jersey) when Alan Douches was taking care of mastering (Dillinger Escape Plan, Mastodon, Sepultura etc.) The CD came back at the beginning of October and we returned to Sainte Marthe for one day for the final mastering process and apply the cuts and effects with Francis Caste. We finished the whole recording process on the 31 October 2005.

**And how new tracks are different from these on "Olena"?**

As I said before it's totally different, different sound engineer, different place, we had a big evolution between Olena and 10 SB4S. First of all, Francis is somebody really involved in the recording process, and he has really good vision of our music, he is like the 6<sup>th</sup> member of the band. So the principal difference came from Francis, when we entered the studio we were going to record 9 songs. Then we started to record the drums, after 2 days of recording we felt that something was not good in some songs, we felt that we need to change something. So we decided to start the songs from beginning, we've been closed-up with Francis and in 3 days we changed all the songs, erasing some riffs, creating new riffs, we tried some things never done before for us like improvise parts of the songs, that's why Mama... became 2 parts because the end of the first part came from a live improvisation with

K.G while I was recording. I was playing on the music then I did a mistake and K.G started to play a new guitar riff so I played with him because I liked it! The fact is that Francis didn't stop the recording, I went to the mixing room and listened that, we've been really surprised so we cut the song in 2 parts, then after Cub and K.G improvised on direct the guitar solos, it was something crazy!!! The whole Album has been recorded like that, we was not afraid of anything, on trying new things, erase some parts to replace by new ones etc. And finally we did something more personal and musical! But don't worry everything has been filmed... maybe someday videos about that will be available ;)

**While listening to the promo track called "Against My Temple" I had feeling that your songs have some parts. I don't know about other songs but this one has brutal part, psycho part and emo part. Are all songs build like this one? Or is it just this one particular song?**

Most of the songs are like that but not all, some are more simple, and some are more complicated, but this song is particular. And that's why we used it as a single, this is a good reflect of the album !

**As far as I remember I wrote in review of "Olena" that it is brutal hardcore mixed with some psycho music. And after this one track I can see we can expect other crazy stuff from Inhated. Where lies inspiration to write such music?**

I don't know, hehehe we are crazy I guess.. or not? I don't know, first we never search to play in a precise direction, we never said like: hey we have to play complicated. Cub just came to me showing me some riff and I answered: yeah! That's a cool idea! But I think it's a reflect of our complicated personalities too... Like I said we are frustrated people like million ones, it's like when you're hungry and you don't find the words

to talk! You motherfuckin\*! fffk foffook efojfo ! It's a bit like that, but now we're finding the words with the time so the music becomes more and more structured... That's simply us.

**It's hard for me to ask about your music when I have just heard one track but I want you to recommend to all readers your CD... for example let's say you are doing commercial for a radio station or something like this, OK?**

OK! Alright guys! Buy this CD. It's like Elvis back to town! Shit... no... I can't sorry. I'm not commercial, I'm musician, but the only thing I can say is that this album will kick your asses dudes ! If you like metal and loud rock n'roll this music is for you!

**Your new CD is going to be released by Several Bleed Records. Your previous MCD called "Olena" was also released by this label. I just wanted to ask you about your cooperation. Are you satisfied with all label is doing for Inhated?**

Yeah! SBR rulez dude! Sure we're satisfied with this label, "Olena" was the first real release for the label. We grew together, and now we have more money and extra things for the band, ahahaha. Virgil give me your ass!!! This label and the band are united as fuck, and that's why we're glad to work with Virgil and all the team, they do the best for us and we know that ! Big up to all the SBR crew !

**Now you will probably tour a lot. When can we expect bigger European tour?**

Well, for the moment we have a lot of dates planned for the upcoming months in France, but we're working on dates for the rest of Europe and world, I know that Virgil is booking some dates in Belgium, Switzerland, Italy but nothing more for the moment.

Then on March /April we're looking for a big European



tour maybe with another American or European band before going through South Europe in July where we're going with our label-mates "????". France, Spain and Portugal, then we will rest for 3 weeks in Portugal for holidays with all the team and surf and have fun ahaha. But before all one of our dream is to come to Poland with the band to play for some dates, we're looking for 8 dates... Promoters open your ears ;) Talk about that around you guy!

**Are there any bands from Paris or from whole France that we should keep a closer look to? Let us know some interesting band names.**

Yes sure! A lot of good bands! Es La Guerilla, L'Esprit Du Clan, Every Reason To..., Altess, Time To Burn, "????", Shoemaker Levy 9, Nostradamus0014, We Are The Romans, Gojira, Zuul Fx, Lomkavulomkavulamer, Zero District and more and more... I guess they have all myspace pages so check them out!

**We all heard about things that were going in Paris in past months. Why do you think all these riots have place? Is it because of that mix of people who live in places called "banlieus" in French?**  
Yes that's is! But that's not just that fact. These "banlieus" in English called "ghettos" imply many other problems, no work for strangers, segregation... And everything started 40 years ago when they created these buildings... So you can expect that in 40 years hate from the population grows and grows year after year, and the politicians tried to hide this hate during these years... But you know what it is.... More you hide... more the hate grows, I think you must know the first riots that happened in May 1968. It was the same problems but with less importance... and now it took more importance and new problems arrived

etc. It's like a ball of snow you let roll on a ground of snow.. It grows and grows... But you know you don't resolve these problems with fire... but with a vote card. Choose your president before you get the wrong one.

**And in this place I would like to ask you how you see Paris? Cause for most of European kids Paris is connected with Eiffel Tower, Champs Elysee or other relics.**

I can't say Paris is a bad place.. That's sure it's beautiful, you have beautiful streets and for art lovers it's so cool... but Champs Elysees is one street between a thousand ones... But I think you've seen on TV the other face of Paris ;) Ghettos and poverty...

**On your web site you have a link to organization called "Make Poverty History". Do you think that poverty is huge problem of today's world?**

Sure that's a huge problem. I'm directly concerned, now I'm in a quite good situation, but I lived in these Paris ghettos and my mother already lives there, I knew what it means to be poor and I do see poverty everyday in Paris, on TV and all around the world.

Human was born on earth naked with vegetables, animals and everything he needs to live here... But the money changed everything, I guess it's in human nature.. To destroy himself etc. But I can talk with you during hours about that.. But to answer to your question yes it's important for us. Children die everyday by poverty. Kids didn't choose to born in this situation. That's horrible.

**What is the main important issue for you as living creatures on this world?**

I think that is to live.. simply... Realize our dreams,

play music as long as we can, and make our friends and family happy. I guess that's all, after that we can expect the world falls down. It's no more a problem. Creatures are creatures and creatures always die at the worst time. The world could be better... if humans were created in the good way without it's defaults and bad sides but here we are... trying to correct the mistakes they put in our spirits.

**Loneliness... It's rather common thing lately. People have many friends but they do feel very lonely. Do you sometimes feel lonely? And do you know how someone can feel lonely in this overcrowded world?**

Yes I do. It's a typical human reaction, more you have people around you, more you feel alone. It's 70% the origin of people depression... I often feel alone, when you play for many dates and see people everywhere during many days then you comeback to home and rest alone for a week, it's a bit difficult. That's why many people says: Hey that's cool to be a musician and play everywhere and to be a star! And I often say, yes that's cool, but you must be strong in your head man. But you know... many people don't understand how you can be loved by as much of people and feel alone, so say OK.. That's cool I'm famous so I don't have to cry... But we are humans ;)

**Anything to add...**

Anything to add... am.... addam.. ahahaha!!!! Yes! I came with Es La Guerilla on Tour 2 years ago in Poland ! And it was my best experience ever so let us comeback with Inhated !!! We will be glad to come to you guys ! Check it out dudes [www.inhated.com](http://www.inhated.com) INHATED - 10 SECONDS BEFORE SUNRISE 24 January 2006 on Stores !

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# SEND MORE PARAMEDICS

**Hi! At the beginning let's start with first question, give us some important things from band's history...**

SMP burst fully-formed from the grave in Leeds UK Halloween 2001. MEDICO-guitar, X. UNDEAD – bass, EL DIABLO – drums, B'HELLMOUTH – vocals.

**Why you decided to call your band Send More Paramedics? As far as I know this quotation is from the movie "Return Of The Living Dead", right? And why do You like this movie so much? That movie is a work of art, the most realistic depiction of undead life any of us has yet seen. As such it was the perfect source for a name for our band.**

**Now what do You think about the last two parts of this series, I'm talking about: "Necropolis" & "Rave To The Grave"? I have not seen them yet and I would like to know something about these movies...**

It's quite a while since I saw those, and my rotting memory isn't what it was... I'd definitely check them out, though. I think the third one is pretty cool.

**I would like to ask you know about some of your releases... let's start with demo. I know that it was released long time ago. I have not heard it but I read the lyrics and I wanted to ask You about one called "Redneck Holliday". Was it inspired by last**

**scenes of "Night Of The Living Dead" by Romero or is it my mistake?**

Yes... In fact the remake of Romero's "Night Of The Living Dead" makes a lot more out of the rednecks torturing the zombies and so that's where that came from really.

**After demo you were signed to In At The Deep Records in 2002 to release your first LP called "A Feast For The Fallen". Have you thought that you were creating something new?**

Sorry, I don't quite understand the question... Zombies don't really think all that hard about being original... We just thrash I guess...

"A Feast For The Fallen" was very trashy and speedy. I feel that you were listening to lot of Slayer when you were younger! But in your music there were always have been some HC stuff like vocals, or slower parts. What feedbacks did you get on that CD?

There's certainly a heavy slayer influence on our stuff. But YEAH we were coming from more of a hardcore punk direction too, so I guess that comes through. We got plenty of good reviews, I guess Minor Threat and Slayer were two major points of comparison, along with stuff like D.R.I.

**And this CD is full of great lyrics like "The Hordes", "The Pain Of Being Dead", "Cannibal" or**

**"Kingdom Of The Dead". Where lies inspiration for this kind of lyrics?**

Simply our own experiences and struggle as members of the living dead.

**Living dead had to wait 2 years for next album called "The Hallowed & The Heaten". This one is slower and your style is more formed. Here we also have some mix of trash metal & hardcore. But it sound less than Slayer for me. What is your opinion?**

I'm a bit disappointed if you think it's slower! I think our style did solidify a bit more on that record, which I hope is a good thing, I guess we were achieving a bit more of an original sound of our own, hopefully.

**And lyrics still about zombies and about stupidity of man. Do you glorify zombies? In lyric "No fucking Joke" you wrote: "Human imbecile / Mortal moron / You say it's so cool / You think it's such fun / Can't you use your brain / While you've still got one? / From where I'm standing / Dead don't look so dumb..." It's a glorification, isn't it? Of course... we are zombies humans suck ass. Except as food.**

**An I think that one of the songs from this CD is some kind of hymn for SMP... I mean "Zombie Crew". Can you say few words about this track?**

Yeah, that's our pop-anthem mosh-crew sing-along... I don't think we'll ever be able to get away with leaving that out of our set!

And I think you have recorded video to this song... right? Are you satisfied with the result?

Yeah, we have two videos, for "Zombie Crew" and "Nothing Tastes Like This", both of which we're very pleased with you can see them on our web site, [www.sendmoreparamedics.com](http://www.sendmoreparamedics.com)

In 2005 you have released 2 different split CDS. One with The Nothing and the other one with Zombie Apocalypse. It was released by two (or even 3) different labels. Why is it so? You couldn't decide on one label?

Our part of The Nothing split was some left-over tracks from previous recording sessions which our friend Jamie offered to release. The Zombie Apocalypse split was recorded specially as part of a collaboration between our label In At The Deep End Records and Hellbent Records from the US.

And please tell me something about lyrics on split CD with Zombie Apocalypse... What are they about?

Alien Possession, a zombie fighting a shark, a difficult father-son relationship with a zombie twist, the dreadful nothingness of being an unconscious walking corpse, and the abjection of being excluded from the land of the living.

And what kind of feedback you get for both splits? It was pretty good... I think the ZA split sold better...

You have released 2 LP's and 1 split CD for In At The Deep Records. How the cooperation look between band and label? Are both sides satisfied? YEAH, Mark has done us proud, we're very very grateful for all the work he's done for us.

You wrote that you play "zombie-core". Can you give us reason why you called style like that? And please give us definition of this genre. Zombies + hardcore = ZOMBIECORE. It's not difficult to work out.

I like zombie movies and for me G. Romero's trilogy is one of the best about zombies. What do you think about that? And have you seen his latest movie: "Land Of The Dead"? What can you say about it?

YEAH, the George A. Romero stuff is a major touchstone for us, and a pretty good representation of what it's like to be dead. I really enjoyed "Land Of The Dead", particularly some of the ways tried (as Romero usually does) to comment on our contemporary situation.

I have been talking lately with my friend. And we were complaining about this "fast moving" zombies. I think that if somebody is dead he/she shouldn't be running like an athlete. What is your

opinion? Are you slow or fast ones? I like'em both. You can have slow and threatening or fast and terrifying.

An important issue in zombies life is eating. Because in all these movies they just kill to eat something. But I think that they need BRAINS to survive... so how is it? Do you need a brain or just lung and heart is enough for You?

Any human flesh is good, but brains are the best. They're just so delicious and nutritious.

AAAAARRRRGGGHHHHHH!!!!!!

Please give us 5 best horror movies of all times for You...

RETURN OF THE LIVING DEAD

NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD

DAWN OF THE DEAD

REANIMATOR

28 DAYS LATER

Thanks a lot for the interview! If you have anything to add you can do it here...

Not really. Thanks very much for the interview. Come to our shows. Check out:

[WWW.SENDMOREPARAMEDICS.COM](http://WWW.SENDMOREPARAMEDICS.COM)

[WWW.MYSPACE.COM/ZOMBIECORE](http://WWW.MYSSPACE.COM/ZOMBIECORE)

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# Storm Of Justice

**Tell us some facts from Storm Of Justice history...**  
 I don't remember the exact date when I decided to start with SOJ. It was more like a growing idea. I was doing a hardcore distro and organizing shows in Switzerland for some years, and my biggest dream for the whole time was always to do something more than "only" selling the music I love. So in summer 2004 I decided to start with Storm Of Justice. From the beginning it was never meant to be only a music label. I always wanted to combine a label, mail order and animal liberation division. Since I started with SOJ it was and still is constantly growing. For maybe half a year now, there is the first SOJ division called "SOJ division East". A friend of mine from Slovakia is taking care of this and it is still under construction. The idea behind this is, that it is easier for people in Eastern Europe to know what SOJ stands for (and of course to get the records – it's not cheap to send packages from Switzerland to Eastern Europe!). I hope that in the future, there will be more SOJ divisions like this. I think this makes the whole thing much more effective. And that's the main goal of SOJ: to reach as many people as possible and spread the vegan straight edge philosophy.

**Please introduce all bands that you have in your label roster...**

**CONDOLÊNCIA** – A band from São Paulo/Brasil. They exist since 1999 and play heavy Metalcore. I guess it was in 2004 when I asked Marcos from Liberation Records ([www.xliberationx.com](http://www.xliberationx.com)) if there is a vegan straight edge band he knows that might be interested in releasing something on SOJ. And as they were recording four songs for the VOICES2 compilation on Liberation Records, I asked them if they were interested in releasing this four songs plus one more in Europe. Since then, I am best friends with the Condolência guys, what is very important for me: I only want to release records for nice and sincere people. I don't want to put something out just because the music is "cool" or the lyrics are "brutal". So in August 2005 I went to São Paulo for a couple of weeks to visit some friends of mine. I spent a lot of time with the CONDOLÊNCIA guys and we are like brothers since then. [www.myspace.com/xcondolenciax](http://www.myspace.com/xcondolenciax)

**SUPER X CONTRA** – One day I got a demo mixtape CDR from this hip hop band called SxC. I was stoked, because the sound and the straight edge lyrics were awesome! So I talked to them several times and they told me, that they were thinking of a vegan straight edge project for a long time (3 of SxC are vegans, 2 are vegetarians, all straight edge). So the 3 vegan edge guys (wolf, cell, solid) started to record some songs with a strong vegan edge message. Due to some recording problems it still takes a while until the record will be finished. Oh ... they are from the USA. [www.myspace.com/superxcontra](http://www.myspace.com/superxcontra)

**NUEVA ETICA** – Well, I guess most of you guys know

this band. If you are into vegan straight edge, you heard the name for sure. NE is a band with 3 singers, so you know what you can expect live – mayhem!!! There's not a long story behind this ... when I was in Brasil in summer 2005, I talked with Marcos about future Liberation Releases. So he told me, that NE are going to record new songs, and he asked me if I was interested in doing the vinyl version ... of course!!! This band is from Argentinia. They exist since 1998, have already 2 records out, and toured in Europe in 2003. They will be back in Europe this summer! [www.myspace.com/xnuevaeticax](http://www.myspace.com/xnuevaeticax)

**LINHA DE FRENTE** – The guys in LDF are good friends (ximx crew) with the guys in Condolência. The bassist of Condolência gave me a demo cd from LDF and from the first moment I loved the stuff. Good music, good lyrics. So I talked to one of the singers (they have 3), and after a time, I asked him if they were interested in working out something together with me. So in February 2006 there will be a Split CD with another Brasilian band (not on SOJ), and later this year (summer), there will come a full lenght on SOJ. July/August they will hit Europe together with Doomsday. So be sure to catch them live if you can. It's worth it – I promise! They are from Brasilia/Brasil. And as all the other bands, they are good friends of mine. [www.myspace.com/xlinhodefrentex](http://www.myspace.com/xlinhodefrentex)

**Your current and future releases...**

First release was CONDOLÊNCIA "The order that shall be" MCD which was released in October 2005. Next record will be NUEVA ETICA "Inquebrantable" LP, then SUPER X CONTRA wolf, cell, solid "tba" MCD and in summer 2006 LINHA DE FRENTE "tba" CD. Maybe there will be some more releases, but that's not for sure yet. Check [www.veganstraightedge.ch](http://www.veganstraightedge.ch) from time to time to be up to date.

**You are official distributor of some American labels. Which labels and why you decided to get in touch with?**

Yes, since some months I am running CATALYST EUROPE, and since a few weeks I am in charge of NEW EDEN EUROPE ([www.xcatalystx.com](http://www.xcatalystx.com) / [www.newedenrecords.com](http://www.newedenrecords.com)). Kurt Catalyst asked me, if I would be interested to do CATALYST EUROPE. A friend of mine from Chile gave him my address, because I was doing the distribution for his label (Survival Recordings) at that time. And later, I just asked New Eden, if they were interested in helping them out with European concerns. So there is not a big story behind that.

I am doing this, because they are both great labels and awesome individuals behind the two labels. Some of the Catalyst releases definitely made me the person I am today. I am talking about the fact, that some of these bands really made me think about some topics. But I guess you know what I am talking about. I just

want to help other people that are sharing my ideas. And the central matter is still to promote the vegan straight edge philosophy.

**How do you choose the bands to be released by xSOJx?**

As I already said I am not someone who surfs through the internet just for finding new bands. I only release stuff from people I have a relation with. And mostly, they have some friends which share our ideas and have a band, too. That's how it worked until today. Of course they have to be vegan straight edge.

**As far as I know for xsojx veganism, straight edge and animal liberation are very important. How do you think label can spread ideas? How they can affect listeners?**

Well, actually for me, it is not veganism / straight edge/ animal liberation. I AM vegan straight edge. And this includes everything (animal liberation, ...). I can't understand people that are vegan straight edge but don't do shit for spreading their ideas. Of course it is a very important and great step to become vegan edge. But I could never just sit back and do nothing. I want to do as much as possible for those who can't defend themselves. Would you just sit back and watch when someone is hurting or killing your mother? No!!! I would hope or even expect, that you would do anything you can to help her! The animals can't defend themselves, so we have to do it for them! Animals are not ours to eat, wear or experiment on – so leave them alone!!! I think that music is a very good way to spread our ideas. It's easy and effective to spread a message through music. I hope that people who are not vegan edge read the lyrics in the booklets and start to think! That's why in my opinion it is very important to give the readers some more info like links to web sites with info about vegan straight edge. On my web site, there are lot of links to homepages dealing about these topics, and you can download info leaflets for yourself or distribute them in your area (I hope you'll do this). Just now I am working on a new area on my web site with videos. For a long time, there was a video on the front page of my web site, and many people told me later, that they started thinking because of this video. They watched it and knew that they had to change some things in their lives. Some even told me, that they showed the video to friends, parents, etc. And that's great! That's exactly what I want to reach with SOJ!

**And why we should consider vegan diet? What kind of power it gives you?**

Why a vegan diet? Well, I could tell you that it is really unhealthy to eat meat or diary products. That's a fact! But for me that's not the main point. Of course I am reading a lot of books about vegan diet, because I want to be informed in what I eat and alternatives

to the common fast food bullshit. The main reason why I became vegan was and of course still is the unnecessary suffering of the animals. Have you ever seen an animal suffering in a slaughterhouse, a laboratory or a fur farm? I can't even watch that. It makes me so sad and angry. I don't know how you can do something like that! Hurting or killing a defenceless animal for nothing – that's so disgusting! I could tell you for hours why this wrong. Just imagine that their suffering is as real as yours, and their blood is as red as yours. I really hope that one day the defenders of this hell will suffer the same pain like they are causing today!

Especially nowadays it is so easy to live without all these animal products. There are so many alternatives and with every month there are even more. You can even buy vegan fast food (if you like that ... I don't really do)!!! There's nothing more easy than a vegan diet. And there are thousands of vegans out there that are the best proof.

So the first reason why to live a vegan lifestyle is the animal liberation concern. Second the unhealthy aspects of a meat based diet and not to forget the third point is the biological fact: humans are not (and never were) meat eaters! The human body is not made for eating meat! If it was backwards, then how should a human eat meat without fire, without any technical additives? If humans were made for eating meat, then they should be able to eat meat without any technical help. That's how nature works. Only our brain makes us able to cook and cut meat with a knife. Of course you can say "Well ... you vegans, you cook your stuff, too!". That's true! I'm not saying, that cooking is bad or anything like that. But the fact is, that most of the plants we can eat (there are some exceptions like potatoes, ...), we can enjoy as raw food. Of course there is nothing wrong when you cook and spice it. You don't hurt anyone with that. But if you have to kill innocent animals and cook them because otherwise you couldn't eat them, then there definitely something is wrong!

This is only the beginning of my answer to this question. I can talk to you for hours about that! I think, that if you, the reader think about it yourself you'll see how drastic it is. Have you ever observed people around you? Their whole live is only about working and eating. And do you think, that any of them is thinking about what they eat? No! They just consume and don't think about it! That's wrong! Make your own thoughts about it, and you'll see that there is no other way than veganism! There really is no true argument against veganism. If you know one, please let me know! With every ounce of my being I ask you ... Please, please go vegan! Start today!!!

**In your biography you wrote that: "It is an everyday war". What does it mean to you? Do you think that it is important for us to fight everyday for innocent lives?**

Everyday there are dying billions of animals just for food, vivisection and more shit like that. This places of horror (slaughterhouses, laboratories, ...) are nothing else then battlefields. With one big difference: The animals can't defend themselves. This is nothing more than a war against the animals – against mother earth. It's a war, that the animals can't win

without our help! And this war has to be stopped!!! Yes, it is important to fight everyday for the animals. "Fighting" doesn't mean automatically to shoot people. "Fighting" can also be talking to your friends about animal liberation, spreading leaflets on the street, do info tables at shows, put stickers at every place in your city, ... There are so many ways to fight for a better world. Violence should always be the last alternative. But that doesn't mean that violence is never good. Sometimes violence is the only language they understand ... Sad but true.

**Direct actions... "There are many examples showing that direct action truly works and are necessary." Do you believe and agree with direct actions in 100%? And what is your opinion about using violence in fight for innocent lives?**

Yes, I believe that direct actions are necessary. (Like I wrote in the answer before.) The past has shown that it works and many places had to close because of the high damage through such an action. Of course it would be much better if a change would be possible without violence. The animals can't defend themselves and humanity is not listening to their cries of death. So WE have to stand up and fight for the innocent. The creators of this hell on earth set profit over life, so we have to set destruction over discussion. In this fight for justice, they set the grade of violence. We will win! ... Because we have nothing to lose! Our commitment to this noble behaviour is thousand times stronger than their money, thousand times stronger than their walls and one million times stronger than their lies!

**It's a lifetime commitment... I have very often heard these words from people that do not care about veganism, animal rights or sxe any more. Why do you think people sell out? Why they stop believing in what they thought was right?**  
I don't know. Selling out means losing his face. Sellouts are nothing more than liars. Every word from their mouth was a lie. I can't understand how you can turn your back on this shit going on around everyone of us. Have you ever seen a cow being slaughtered? How can you start eating meat again after hearing their cries of desperation??? I will never understand how anyone can sell out. I hope that every sellout will suffer the most horrible pain. Liars die one thousand deaths. That's all I have to say about them. I don't want to spend to much time on them. FUCK SELLOUTS!

**Animal liberation is the most important issue and 2nd one is sxe or drug free lifestyle. How important for you is to keep your mind free?**  
As I wrote before, for me it goes hand in hand. For me the most important thing is vegan straight edge. But to answer your question: Straight edge for me is nothing more than the key to self liberation. I stay sober because I want to have my body under control and make my own decisions. Of course there are other reasons like the damage that drugs do to your body and your whole life. Like POINT OF NO RETURN said some years ago: "Intoxication is not rebellion. Clarity is / the weapon they fear."

**Why did you choose to become straight edge? Was it a fashion? Or maybe somebody forced you to**

**be? Or maybe you just found your way?**

Not a big story. I really drank a lot (I never did other drugs). Like all of my friends at this time. One day I was thinking about my whole life and that I had to change some things. So I decided from one day to another to live a clean life. That's my story. Nothing very interesting. But one thing I have to mention that makes me sad somehow: There are so many kids out there that call themselves "straight edge" but in fact they are nothing more than "drug free". Of course this is good! Don't get me wrong, but straight edge still has three X's! Straight edge still means anti-promiscuity! And that's what really a lot of "straight edge / drug free" kids forgot. Straight edge IS politics! There are many people, that live a clean life, but they would never call themselves "straight edge". With the words "straight edge" and its symbols like "xxx" you show everyone around that you will live your whole life standing against relapse and drug use. You shouldn't become straight edge because it is cool or something like that. The decision to become straight edge should be made because you are sick of accepting the fucked up insanity passed off as normal. With straight edge there is no turning back!

**One more thing... Do you think that being vegetarian because of fashion is a good for this movement? I mean someone who is vege for one month and later comes back to eating meat.**

Of course this sucks! Because everyone of the so called "fashion-vegetarians" is doing that because he/she wants to lose weights or whatever. They are not doing it because of the animals. And that's what it should be about. It's OK, if you know lots of things about a vegan diet (I am reading lots of books about veganism, too), but it should not only be because of that. You should know what's going on on this planet and boycott this industries simply because they are wrong! Of course it's OK if you are vegan and stay vegan because of your health. But that's absolutely not the reason why I embrace a vegan lifestyle. Maybe, you can make a fashion vegetarian think when you talk to him/her. And maybe then he/she will understand and change some things. You know what I mean...

**If you want to add anything... Here you can! Thx a lot for this interview**

Thank you for giving me the chance to talk with you about what I love (the vegan straight edge) / hate (this fucking "I don't care" attitude most people have) so much!

If you, the reader, have more questions, don't hesitate to contact me through [www.veganstraightedge.ch](http://www.veganstraightedge.ch). Of course I have so much more to say, and maybe we can have a really good discussion. Maybe you got something wrong I wrote because my English knowledge is not the best, or maybe you just want to tell me that you feel the same.

"We are not right because we have all the answers – we are right because we still have questions!" So if you want to ask me something or write me something else – do it!

**My heart is dedicated to the promise of inner strength. And no one can take this away from me. Vegan straight edge - The promise I will take to my grave.**

# Liar

## Murder Manifesto

Liar is back!! Kingz of metal are back in town with their fresh CD called "Murder Manifesto" released by GSR Music in November 2005. They were in long journey but light in the dark help them to return to the living! From my beginning with hardcore Liar was a very special band. Very metal band. I was always metal head and this is why I liked theirs music very much! Being on the HC scene, playing metal! When I finally got a chance to make an interview with Hans I did not think about twice! Now or never and I was not disappointed! Hans talks about new CD, some metalcore shit, future plans for the band... Ladies and Gentlemen I present you living H8000 Crew legend... This is Liar from Belgium

**Hi! My name is Adam, please introduce yourselves...**

We are Liar, a h8000 area band that are around for 11 years now, spawned out of the ashes of old bands here like Congress, Regression, Blindfold, Firestone, Empathy and more... Check our web site for more members profile.

Your last CD was released about 3 years ago (or maybe even more) so what was LIAR doing from 2002 till now? Any facts worth to be mentioned? For a lot of people there's the misunderstanding that Liar didn't do a lot the last 4 years or so. We also

recorded a split with Polish rockers Sunrise that came on Lifeforce and played a good amount of shows, did a couple of tours, one of the tours was in Japan. We worked on new songs and just waited for the right moment.

**You are known as "Godfathers" of metalcore. Do you agree with this name?**

Yeah why not. After awhile people are calling us this way, we have to believe it's for real. It doesn't mean anything, but is in a way flattering and feels good that certain bands are influenced by Liar.

**As far as I remember your first LP "Falls Of Torment" was quite shocking CD for whole hardcore scene. Many kids didn't understand your music cause it was too metal. How do you look at this CD from all these passed years? Do you think that was big step forward for metalcore genre? It was innovating and fresh to the scene back then. We didn't get a lot of support outside our own area, but hometown shows were a blast and soon after, we got touring offers and people started to buy our stuff... We started Liar in order to shock and to inspire, and definitely not to please people. We are still very proud of this release...**

**I think that LIAR is one of the longest lasting straight edge bands around. How important are ideals for you, I mean not just sex but also animal rights, human rights, struggle for friendship etc..? True, the ideals are very important in the individual way and definitely in the Liar way... Though we are fond on the other issues mentioned as well. SxE can be a blessing or a curse if that's the thing in the band. If a member leaves the band, then it's getting more and**

more difficult to find the right guy. For example, we are using some drummers that are replacing Bert (who left) and they aren't edge... but this way we can keep on doing what we do, hopefully people will understand this... as Liar has a lot of offers for good shows and tours now, we really wanna do it.

**What is the main secret of your long life? There are so many bands that just come and go and LIAR is still around from 1995. Tell us what makes band great?**

There is no secret at all... It's just a matter of not giving up if some negative stuff is reaching you. We have fun in doing this, and to see and experience things while playing shows is great and inspiring enough for all of us to keep this going. Bands these days have no patience at all, they want the support and the greatness, but are not able or not motivated to sweat blood for it. Having a myspace band account and sitting on your lazy ass isn't how we see it.

**You are one of the bands that started the almighty H8000 crew. Where are all these great bands? I know that except LIAR Congress is still around, right? What about Deformity, Spineless and others?**

There's only Liar and Congress that are remaining from back in the day, all the other bands broke up and some members are doing something different now, like half of Spineless are playing in AmenRa now and some others play in a band called Trenchfoot..

**Metalcore is very popular nowadays. What do you think of this hype? Did you think while writing "Falls Of Torment" or "Invictus" that this music style would be so popular in the future?**

### LIAR'S DISCOGRAPHY

- 1995 - 'Falls Of Torment' LP/CD  
(Goodlife Recordings)
- 1997 - 'Invictus' LP/CD  
(Genet Records)
- 1997 - LIAR/FAMILY OF DOG SPLIT CD  
(Genet/Frostbite Records)
- 1999 - 'Deathrow Earth' LP/CD  
(Goodlife Recordings)
- 2001 - 'Liar's Hell' LP/CD  
(Alveran Records)
- 2002 - LIAR/CONGRESS SPLIT 7"  
(Pyro Rex)
- 2003 - LIAR/SUNRISE SPLIT LP/CD  
(Lifeforce Records) & (Wanted Recordings - LP)
- 2005 - 'Murder Manifesto'  
(GSR Music) & (Reality Records - LP)

Of course not, coz we did our thing back then, and it worked out good.

**Now LIAR is back with new great CD called "Murder Manifesto". What is the main idea behind the title of the CD?**

It's the most angry record we did along with Deathrow Earth, and it basically has the same meaning. Murder manifesto talks about injustice, warfare and killings in name of religion and country, that's the meaning of the title, it goes along with the artwork of the release. It also means that you have to defend yourself to outside criticism and the constant attack on your vital existence and individuality. Don't follow, but be a leader. Master of your own.

Your music is more metal than ever before. It's fast, guitar riffs are so demonic, almost pure metal! Do you think that people will buy it? You almost don't have any clean singing, beautiful melodies, that's how metalcore is being played now!

First off all, we will never play the melodic happy sappy stuff that makes a lot of bands more radio friendly these days, Liar has always been about playing fast and brutal, extreme stuff, and this will never change.

And this question is connected with previous one, I like your CD cause it's true! You can feel that's not a copy of Caliban, HSB, KSE or As I Lay Dying... Do you think that this true spirit, honesty is still important? Or you can just sound like a well known label and look good and that's it? Liar isn't about image or style, we are 5 simple kids out of a small area here in Belgium. We never felt the intention or urge to copy other bands, there was no need for that. We are creative enough to keep the Liar vibe in it. It's great if some-one says in a review "it's a typical Liar release", this means we hold unto our own style.

Your lyrics is rather dark. There is a lot of revenge in it, I think you don't like to be hit in the cheek 2 times, right? Please write something about lyric concept of the CD.

Liar lyrics have always been about revenge and anger, as this is the engine that keeps me writing lyrics like that, these are feelings and thoughts that I write down. I don't try to waste time on parasites, but give love and friendship to those worth it. The lyrical content of this release deals with individualism and to walk though life with your head held up high. Learning on not to fall down in life is one thing, trying to pick yourself up again and again is another more difficult way, but the only true way, never give up dreams, hopes and ambitions, they can be yours if you're willing to work for it.

And I have to ask about "Wolfsblood". It's the most furious track on the CD and I think that lyrics for this track are the only one about sex, is that right? I think that on the other of your releases there were more songs concerning this issue. Why this has changed?

You're right about that, after 4 releases in 10 years and packing it up with sxE anthems again and again isn't a needed thing to do the 11<sup>th</sup> year for me. Wolfsblood talks about living drug free and how I still feel after such a long time. I'm a firm believer. But there's more things in life that are bothering me or sparking my interests. I think it's sad that a lot of kids are giving up on sxE and that there's almost no bands left who are edge though. Wolfsblood is dedicated to those who are still believing.

OK... and as a Entombed fan I could not miss the song called "Left Hand Path". Why did you decided to call a track like Entombed record?

Don't get me wrong, but Entombed didn't invent the term Left Hand Path, the real meaning behind it is actually being solitary, individualistic, personal, constant self development, self empowering, to do what's best for yourself without wasting time on all the „good“ advice from others who are claiming to know it all. Too bad Entombed already has this title, coz it's a question often asked in interviews.. And besides that it would have been a good Liar title as well.. hehe.

**Who made graphics for your record? I think there are one of the best I have seen in past 2-3 years. Was that your idea or not?**

Stephen Kasner is responsible for this more than awesome job... He did some stuff for Integrity and in the meantime for Himsa as well it seems. He creates dark and sinister work that fits perfectly to what we bring.

**As a band you were in 5 different labels. Is it hard to release 5 CDS just for one label? What was the main reason to look for another label?**

If you're around for a good amount of time like we are, then chances are big you're gonna switch labels, as you need to experience the world of labels... Sometimes promises are made and cannot be fulfilled, then it ends up in frustration and bullshit. Basically, we signed a contract with GSR this time (the first time in Liar history) and it's the first time in Liar history that our label put's more action than words in their working ways. The advertising and follow-ups are perfect.

**And now you are in your fifth label. This time it's GSR. Why did you choose this label? And are you satisfied with what they did for you till now?**

See former answers, but yes. They have been by far the best choice we could made, everything is loud and clear, no hidden agenda's or hidden sales numbers. No rambling, just hard action. GSR will be the label that is hitting friend and foe with surprises soon, watch it.

**And as far as I know XliberationX will release it in South America, right? Do you think that's important to release CD in SA or have you done it because "all bands do it"?**

It was definitely something that Marcos has been asking Liar for the last 5 years or so, but our old labels didn't wanna co-operate at all. This time the label saw the potential in a release over there and so did we.. There are plans to play some shows up there!!!

**I read at your website that you are going on tour in January with THE BLACK DAHLIA MURDER. What are your expectations?**

In the meantime, the tour happened already and we had a blasting experience, played 15 awesome shows for a lot of people and pushed the name Liar again all over Europe, touring and playing shows is very important, this tour has been very great. TBM dudes are awesome to play with.

**What can we expect more from LIAR in upcoming year?**

We are gonna play a shitload of shows, watch us on some Poland stages as well very soon, just check the site and the dates will be published very soon. It's all in the "to do" list now. We are working on new songs very soon as well..

**Can you say some words about Toxic Merch? What kind of business is this, for what kind of bands do**

**you work etc.?**

It's my own merchandise printing company, we are active in the music industry, and are working for a lot of bands right now, some touring bands, record labels, local bands, individuals... It's cool to do and is a worthy alternative to the many years I worked for bosses.

As I am my own boss now, fits perfectly in my plan and lifestyle. Check the site: [www.toxicmerch.com](http://www.toxicmerch.com)

**Anything to add...**

Thank you for the very cool interview and hopefully till very soon. Check the Liar site: [www.liar.be](http://www.liar.be)



**Murder Manifesto CD(2005 GSR Music)**

I have been waiting long enough for new full length of this marvellous band. I was astonished after listening to new track called "Wolfsblood" on their myspace profile and I could not wait any longer, my patience was running out! Finally, after rather long time, I got what I was screaming for! Hot and fresh stuff from this H8000 legend. As far as I remember this band was one of those that stood for what they believed and that they played extreme music. And Liar proves that still remembers how their true metal sounded. This CD is for sure one of the best in their discography and contains less hardcore and more metal from all their releases. And for me in some aspects it is comeback to their old style. I think that I am not big fan of their two last full lengths but the "Murder Manifesto" convinced me again to this Belgian band. I think that I will start with the sound of this CD. It is a strong hit in the head, I love it! Guitars are straight from hell and it is all thanks to both guitar players who do all to make songs more and more demonic. Hans's vocal is as usual very good and I think that it is more diversified than on their previous releases. Drummer is crazy and gives us some double basses and blasts. He can handle with slow and fast parts. With "Murder Manifesto" Liar is back on track with their old style! Straight and true metal from Belgium. This band is like wine, the older the better! The titles („Murder Manifesto“, „Black Heart Revenge“, „Purgatory“, „Destroyer“, „Wounded World“) and lyrics say it all – metal as fuck with a hardcore soul. And I have to add that this band is one of many that remained from well-known in 2nd half of 90-ties H8000 Crew from Belgium. World changes but Liar is still strong and still on the same place. I can't see anybody who can hesitate this CD, this is just one of the best of 2005. They deserve just applause for this one. I hope that I will not have to wait so long for another great release like "Murder Manifesto". Long live Liar, kingz of metal & death to false metal!

# NO MORE FEAR

**Let's start with first question about some facts from the band history... (when did you form, where, why have you set up a band)**

**MAURO:** NO MORE FEAR formed around 1997. Well, I can say around '97 cause at the time we called ourselves with a different name (i.e. Speed wheels) and the band members, except for myself, were different as well. Marco (our early singer) and I come up with the decision to form the band almost on a theoretical level; it happened a night, after we have been skateboarding in the afternoon around in Busto Arsizio-our city-, and we said each other "hey.....What about to form a band? So, I decided to start playing the guitar and Marco to start singing. A few days later I started taking guitar classes and in a few months time we decided that we were "ready" (well, ready was really a big word!). At the time, in Busto Arsizio like everywhere in Italy, was the boom of punk rock/HC and was easy to find new members to play with.

I'm not gonna mention all the turnovers in the band line up, but I'm gonna say that just after a while, the line up has become the one that will be later recording "Face the reality" (2000) and "Walkin' on" (2002). After we put out "Walkin' on", we have one more line up change that will lead to current line up: DAN (Vocals), ME (Mauro) (Guitar), STEFANO (Guitar), LUCA (Bass guitar) and PAOLO (Drums).

**You have evolved as a band..from fast hardcore at the beginning, through new school, metalcore, to old school hardcore nowadays. Was it so hard for You to find your style, or was it connected with line up changes?**

**MAURO:** Well, when we began playing, we were all around 17-18 years old, with no experience at all, so we "just" wanted to play hardcore. So it was not so easy to find our way to play it! Moreover, the line up changes made it also more difficult! Finally now we did! I think now we have our own style.

**What does the name of your band mean? No more fear....but from what/who?**

**MAURO:** Our very first band name was Speed Wheels (I told you...we did loved skateboarding!) but with the coming of the new member we decided to change the name for No More Fear. It was just one of the thousands name proposed and we liked it the most!

**DAN:** The other guys told me No More Fear comes from Warzone's "The sound of revolution".

**MAURO:** Oh yeah..I forgot it!! ! It was proposed by Luca and if I remember well, he took inspiration from Warzone's "The sound of revolution". In this song at the end Raybeeze (rip) says "The line's been drawn, the battle's clear. It's time for pride and no more fear". So, here we are!

**You have toured Europe for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time I think... Which are the best places in Europe to see and to play for a HC band as yours?**

**MAURO:** Actually last april we toured for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time

Europe. In 3 tours we played great concerts almost everywhere. I think we played our best gigs in Germany, there the scene is very big and it's not difficult to play in front of a really big audience!! But also in Poland we played good shows and in Hungary as well..as I said there were a lot of good shows!

**I have read in one of the interviews with NMF, where Mauro said that: "he sees a division between "true" kids and the "spoilt" ones" ...who are the true and who are the spoilt ones? How do you divide these kids?**

**MAURO:** Yep, it was for a German zine if I'm not wrong. Well, the true kids are who really belong to HC movement, who are involved into organizing shows, who goes and have fun at shows not just because it's the big and trendy US band, but just because it's a good band, maybe also unknown, that really deserve support and money for covering gas costs. The spoilt one are who thinks that HC music is listening to the more fashion bands and wearing the coolest t-shirt.

And they never go to the shows!

**You have also written something about the people at Superbowl Festival. That they were shy, or something like that. Don't You think that it's strange that people just stand and do nothing when the band plays? Do You like people who "dance" to your music or just do nothing and relax while listening to what you play?**

**MAURO:** I really don't like people standing and doing nothing at shows. When we play we really try to give our best, I mean, we run, we jump we move around the stage; if we see that under the stage people just stand still like at the cinema, u know, it become less easy for us to play at our best. In the opposite case, when people get nut at the shows we get even more nut then the. A NMF show is someting that increase its power together with people.

**DAN:** Of course no one should feel forced to jump at our shows, but if we say "they're shy" they shouldn't feel offended.





**What are your main music influences? I read some names like: Youth Of Today, Chain of Strength, Champion...**

**MAURO:** As musicians we take inspirations from all the old school bands for the '88 wave. Yep the names are usual: YOT, Judge, Ten Yard Fight, Chain and so on. Of course the sound is a little bit different, but that's why we are in 2005 and the recording technology has changed. I don't think a NMF sounds like a YOT's but it would if we would have done it 20 years ago. As every day life soundtrack of course we listen to many other kind of music going from jazz to rock to punk and so on...

**You wrote at your CD layout this sentence: "Proud to be drug free, proud to be vegetarian". Are these your main values in life? What does it mean for You (personally) to be sxe and meat free?**

**MAURO:** Well, first of all, I'm (proudly and strictly) vegetarian, I don't drink and smoke but I have never X-ed up my hands. So I don't know if it's right to define my self straight edge. However the values of being meat and drug free for me are very important, but for sure are not the main values in my life. I think there is something more important: family, friendship for example. Being drug free to me means being respectful towards my body, I don't want to be poisoned by any shit! About vegetarianism, it's even more important for me than not smoking/drinking. In my life, not consuming animal is a real value. It could sound rhetoric but I'm very proud of being vegetarian, I can walk in a fields or in a wood and feeling a part of it not an enemy.

**Are You satisfied with your last CD called "A Matter Of Choice"? And what about feedback? How the kids like the record?**

**MAURO:** Personally I'm very satisfied with it! I would have done the graphix work a little bit different but it's ok as well! By now the feedback is good, most of the reviews are positive and people often write us e-mails or just comment on our webpages to say they like the record!

**In one of your lyrics entitled "Attitude" you wrote: "Get relaxed and try to be yourself, nothing more". Do you think that there are some persons that are trying to be someone that they are not? And if yes, why do You think it is like this?**

**DAN:** There are many kids like that for sure: often it seems they propose themselves like a stereotype of the supposed perfect hardcore kid, from the way they walk to any single word they say. I think some of them just try to imitate what's cool in the other guys. Some kids imitate the tough ones and their macho style, some kids want to appear like the rights and justice keepers, some others just care of their own look. But inside there is nothing but insecurity and having a strong look is a way to exorcise their fears. Other people don't need this shown attitude and if only they realize it they might try to be themselves and feel better, concentrate on what they really believe without feeling forced, without judging the others, etc...I don't think they're bad. This is a sick society that makes many problems to kids, like loneliness, etc, so maybe most of them think this is the only way to feel appreciated. But let me say it often seems that many bands write lyrics based on what the other kids expect to read. It sounds not normal to me.

**What about is the track "One Life, Four Years". Do you really think that someone needs just 4 years and some people bullshit speeches to end all his ideals?**

**DAN:** Yeah, the ones just mentioned, for example. Well, I've been involved in this scene for almost 16 years and I've seen a turnover of different generations of new hardcore kids. I know several guys that are still in hardcore scene after long time, some of them made a small business on it, but some others are simply enthusiastic like at the beginning, because they really believe this is their own way. But the majority of the kids are only charmed by the surface they see, they want to be a part of something they don't really feel. These ones leave after 3 or 5 years. It's mathematical. If I play soccer, even if I don't like it, only because I expect people will love me, well, after few years I'll quit it because I won't feel satisfied. If you don't really believe in the hardcore topics, you will consider it a

game to play, like I consider soccer, and you'll quit. I said "four" years because I remember, in early Nineties, an italian stupid guy who spread shit about the others on a fanzine he used to write for. He felt the power to judge the bands and the scenesters only because that zine was a bit popular. Then after few years he quit it all because his daddy wanted him to be more serious... Well I knew him in person, and I can say it. I still remember his final delirious article: "I gave enough to hardcore in these four years, it's time for me to leave it" or something like that. So pathetic!

**You are veggie band...And as you wrote it in one of your songs "Maybe it all started as a cool trend but now it's more important to spare a life". Can You tell me how this song was created? And what do You think of the people who are just veggie for being trendy?**

**DAN:** Look, as I say in the song, the most important thing is to save more lives. So, even if you're not really coherent at the beginning, maybe with time you begin to believe this is really important, something that should be above the trendy stuff. Maybe in the end some one realizes this is not for him, he might realizes he was veggie only for being trendy and quit it too, but from another point of view I can only hope they helped a bit spreading the message and doing something for the meat free movement, even if for few time. I wrote this song, thinking on what's good in this topic and how to approach it when we're young and we never realized about pets suffering before crossing this reality.

**What is the worst thing that you don't like in human beings?**

**DAN:** Hypocrisy.

**MAURO:** The desire of power. It's giving our world wars and sufferering.

**You were in some shows in Poland, Czech Rep, Hungary..generally speaking Eastern Europe...can You write some differences between East and West of Europe?**

**MAURO:** Speaking about the shows, in the eastern countries punk/hc shows are more DIY. You know, there are less money, less hardcore club so everything is set up by the organizator in squat or place like these.

I think that's the main difference. Moreover, in the eastern countries I have the feeling people really want to have fun at the shows cause not so many bands fix shows in that countries preferring to play just in the richer part of Europe.

**What do You think about all those sellout people? You know they were sxe for some time, telling that it's for life, and they tried to see others mistakes. And now they don't give a shit about their ideals...**

**DAN:** I've seen many people like your description... So now I usually don't mind too much what the "true" sxe kids claim, until they make me feel I can trust their words. Personally I don't judge them, but I take them as they come with no expectations: as I told you before, I understand there might be something else behind their attitude. So if they quit... well, it's bad, but it's their own life and they have to face it by themselves. If a friend quit and he doesn't ask for a confidence, I don't use to interfere. I have no right to do it unless he does something dangerous.

Sometimes it happens that a kid quit the sxe lifestyle and start to spread shit about the ones who still believe it and denies the old friends. This drives me mad: you don't want my friendship, well, you won't have it anymore.

**And another question is connected with a previous one. What do You think drives people to give up meat free lifestyle? Cause I can't understand that...people who were veggie or vegan are now eating meat.**

**DAN:** As I told you before, it's not my habit to judge the others, but I can't understand that too: we're not talking about drinking a beer or smoking a joint, it's about torturing and killing many forms of life!

**Direct Actions... What is your opinion about this issue? Do You think that every way is good to rescue innocent lives? Or are you rather not fighters but preachers?**

**DAN:** Any necessary mean is good. From direct actions to spreading the messages. For answering to your question, personally I'm more on preaching...

**Do You think that nowadays there is some kind of trend to listen to hardcore music? Do you think that this music is still underground and that it is a bit alternative or rather it's consumed by society?**

**DAN:** Yeah, in years I've seen many waves of young kids involved in hardcore only because it was trendy, maybe just to play a role to be shown elsewhere with the schoolmates...

**MAURO:** I would not say that it is trendy! Maybe it's a little bit more popular nowadays than in the past years. Maybe it's more bound with fashion clothes and shoes but I think it's something still underground.

I'm speaking about real hard core music and show. Everything is done from the kids for the kids.

**Can you mention some bands from Italy that You think are good? Do you think that today you have rather good scene?**

**MAURO:** The Miracle, Values Intact.

**What is your opinion about shitty politics of G. Bush and American army? And what do you think of those 'terrorists' attacks all over the world? Do you think that there is some kind of one solution for these problems?**

**DAN:** What can I say that won't be rhetorical?!? The Bush family must be stopped. We all know it all was just for having power on petrol business and for controlling the world economy. But, if I was a rich arabian emir and I wanted to react to foreign oil companies, I'd have used my weapons to destroy their oil machines on my territory. If I was a merciless one, I'd have killed all the foreign workers for those companies on my territory. But I'd have not killed thousands of innocent people on the other side of the world. I can understand the target was the WTC itself and maybe it wasn't estimated so many victims, but why putting bombs on trains in Madrid or London? Just for scaring "western" people? This is not acceptable. Bombs on innocents is a coward action too. More cities have received the same menace. They profite by the democracy that gives rights to everybody. I'm afraid in future the only considered solution in our countries will be the privation of rights. This is not the right way. But if we must be afraid of any single person, it means that the democracy failed. There won't be any solution. Now, after that famous "September 11<sup>th</sup>" the war has started and now both sides are at the point that they can only continue it.

**What are your plans for the future? Any shows in the near future?**

**MAURO:** Surely playing as much as possible. We are booking shows from the next months all over Europe and maybe also somewhere farer.

**What you guys have been listening to lately?**

**MAURO:** EHM...Lots of stuff, but mainly Frank Sinatra (my way), the last Comeback Kid CD, The Get Up Kids and Dashboard Confessional (yep..a part of me is Emo)

**DAN:** A CD of unreleased TV tunes I've produced with some friends.

**Now some quick and 'light' question: - how to prepare a cool and verz tasty pizza? Pizza is known as speciality from Italy**

**DAN:** Pizzaaaaaaaa!!! Haarhhh...

**MAURO:** Ehmm..I should ask to my granny, however I can give you a good advice: go to Naples, you will eat the best pizza ever! And I am not joking about that!

**I know that Italy had strong horror scene in 70's? I love many Italians horrors (especially those from Lucio Fulci, Pupi Avati or Dario Argento)...How is it now? Are there many artists who are doing these kind of movies?**

**DAN:** Hey, it seems a bad joke, but right this upcoming week, any day late at night, there will be Fulci's horror movies on TV! I love many movies from the mentioned directors, but unfortunately the Seventies are gone... Yeah, maybe some movies didn't have a great production, maybe there weren't great actors and maybe there weren't great special fx-ing... but for sure those movies were strong, from the screenplays itself to the single shots, from gore to thrilling. It also happened american directors plagiarized italian movies or cult scenes from italian movies: the first one that came to my mind was the double killing of a making sex couple in "Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> pt.2" taken from "Reazione a catena", directed by Mario Bava in 1971, but there are more popular american movies too... Well, actually the killing formula in "Reazione a catena" has been adopted from all the others horror film makers... Now I don't see a real horror new school, in Italy, even if there are several directors who make "also" horror movies and sometimes good ones, I must say. One of them is Enrico Galli, a good friend of mine, who is making his first feature film "Nazi scarecrow", with two NoMoreFear songs proudly written for the movies, in the soundtrack too. It's about a scarecrow that comes alive and start to kill everybody. I'll probably play the part of a slashed victim. News about it at [www.naziscarecrow.com](http://www.naziscarecrow.com) where there's a nice trailer too. Then I can mention Lorenzo Bianchini, who made two interesting movies: "V-3" and "Custodes bestiae".

**What are the most important things for You as a band? Playing shows, recording cds, speaking about your ideals, or maybe sth else?**

**DAN:** No doubt: playing shows! Records are made for own ego and for trying to make enough money when you play far from home and you spend more money than you can earn from the bill. Lyrics and ideals are important too, but I don't want to teach people what to do, I just speak about what "I" believe... Then, being in a band and touring is a good way to meet many kids and sometimes you can find cool friends...

**MAURO:** I AGREE: shows, shows and again shows! It's the most exciting moment, when you play your songs in front of an audience and you make somebody sing/ dance all our effort and sacrifices have a sense.

**Thx for the interview... Last words, comments...**

**MAURO:** Thanx a lot Adam, sorry for the big delay in the answering. I would like to thank all the people that through these years have given us support, friendship and any kind of help!

**DAN:** Hey, thanx for let me speak about horror movies too. Next ask me something about cartoons...

[www.nomorefear.net](http://www.nomorefear.net)

**NO MORE FEAR**

**MEAT**

# WARZONE

## "The way I think, the life I lead. A lifelong struggle, in what I believe"

I think that these few words show us what this band was all about. This line is from song called "Marked For Life" (Fight For Justice CD released by Victory Records). When I started to be a member of hardcore community I started listening to the bands that my friends were listening to. And I think it was in 1996 in my hometown almost everybody was listening to New York Hard Core. And I met awesome bands like AF, Madball, Bulldoze, Rejuvenate and lots of others that names I can't remember right now. Among all these bands there was one called Warzone. I thought that's good name for a band (as far as I knew that time there was a game called the same). And I don't why from all these different bands I felt in love the most with Warzone. I have to tell you that this band is for me one of the most important bands in my life. They stand in the same line with Iron Maiden, Earth Crisis, Madball, Bulldoze... Just to mention few of them. I love their music it's mix of hardcore and with some element of skinhead's music. Very fast tempos, from time to time some solos on a guitar. And the guy who was and still is one of my heroes. I mean Raybeez. His voice has such great power and it affects on everybody. And lyrics... I think that should be important part of hardcore band. And in case of Warzone there were very important. In their lyrics true hardcore spirit was very important... think this is what many kids lack today. "In our minds and in our hearts, we feel that hardcore music should stay out of big business and stay in the streets where it belongs. All you kids up there always keep the faith!" - this one comes from song called "Don't forget the struggle, don't forget the streets". Ray's lyrics were one of the first lyrics that I read from hardcore band and were written in very simple language but that was it! Very simple but affected my young brain and I think that they helped me a lot in my personal development. I wanted to present to everybody who doesn't know the Warzone these awesome band. Warzone was always a part of NYHC family. They released few CDS that are milestones in hardcore. I don't want to write here some dates because it's not important. But important issue is this that each CD gave me something new. New power to continue the struggle. I can say that with every CD one can hear that WarZone wanted to do something new. I think that the rawest music in on album called "Open Your Eyes". That was my first meeting with Ray's voice and powerful lyrics. For me this CD has special place in my heart cause that was my first one. Second one was "Don't Forget The Struggle Don't Forget The Streets" that was real blast for me because sound was much much better and music was more coherent and from speakers I just could see pure energy leaking. Lyrics against racism, about living our lives by ourselves and making our own choices. Simple things but in modern life lots of people forget to live their lives how they want to do it not like a society wants you to live it. Right from beginning WarZone was accused of being skinhead band and about racists' beliefs. But that was because of the shaved heads and oi influences on music. But in the lyrics they were against racism. Ray wrote about it song called

"Skinhead Youth" were he sings "Talkin shit about the way we act, you say we're Nazis on the attack". That's how this band was noticed by some people. That's fuckin' stupid! Next record is one the weirdest in their discography. Self titled CD with lots of experiments in their music. I think that one can say that this record was kind of crossover stuff. One can find on that CD also weird noises like phone ringing, alarm clocks... Next in line which I was listening to was I think "Lower East Side". This CD was full of positive message and powerful music that helped my heart to beat faster. Ray's voice changed a bit. And we had lot of choirs on that album. Lots of slower parts. I think that is one of the best records from WarZone. And we can find on it cover song "The Real Enemy" from The Business. I love this CD! Next in line was "Sound Of Revolution" which was second one (first one was "Lower East Side") released by Victory Records. Title song is a fuckin' killer. I have never heard song like that in my life. I can say that with next releases WarZone was creating better and better songs which were starting to be hymns. I think that they did a video for title track of the CD where we could all see why we can't call them racists band. There were some Malcolm X speeches on this video. This CD was very important for the band because they came back to life with this album. Lyrics are about revolution in our minds, hearts and society! And of course about helping each other and supporting others. Later I get to know CD called "Old School To New School". But I think this is not one of my best ones. Maybe because of bad production? I don't know... on the CD one can find 11 tracks. 5 of them are covers of bands like: Urban Waste, the Abused, Cause for Alarm, and Youth of Today. There are 2 new songs and rests of them are live tracks recorded at AF last show in 1992. But this album has a message: "So as I end this, I just want to say that as long as we all believe in ourselves and never let this world get us down, there's always hope. The New York City Hardcore scene will always be a family. Violence and fighting should always be something we strive to eliminate from our scene, both in New York City and around the world. We're getting stronger everyday - Keep the Faith, Keep the Peace, New York City Hardcore, United as One - Forever." Frankly speaking we couldn't expect anything else from this band. Next CD was a split CD with Cause For Alarm. These four tracks are so good that it's hard to describe them. Last track "Free At Last" shows how important lyrics are for WarZone. And with this track I started to think about Ray as a drug free guy. Cause in lyric to this song we can read:

**"Found it years ago**

**Trying to find it again**

**But if I fail, I wont let it be the end**

**I hear people say they have no faith in me**

**Drink their alcohol smoke that dust**

**Talk about me and their lives are fucked**

**Time has come to do what's right**

**Don't want to live dead and lose the fight**

**Free at last- from the drugs I crave**

**Free at last- from alcohol's daze**

**Free at last- from that P.C.P.**

**Free at last- from insanity**

**Free at last- From my fear**  
**Free at last- from all the tears**  
**Free at last- from the grave**  
**Free at last- now I'm saved**  
**So if I fall what will you do?**  
**Cause what I need's a friend in you**  
**I wonder if you'll laugh at me**  
**Or help me to stay drug-free**  
**But if you choose to walk away**  
**And come back another day**  
**I'll be gone to a better place**  
**On my own I'll win the race**  
**There are other friends who'll stick by me**  
**Side by side for eternity**  
**But if I must be alone and do it all on my own**  
**I'll win the fight and that's for sure**  
**In my heart I'll stay pure**  
**Perseverance deep inside me**  
**A mission that's meant to be**  
**Fire burning in my soul**  
**Drug-free**  
**My life's goal"**

And as you can see in the last line Ray says "Drug-free / My life's goal" that have to mean much to him. Next release is the last one and I will say more words about it. For the more than 10 years Raybeez and all people who were playing with him in this band was talking, singing about unity on hardcore scene. He believed in it with all his heart. And that was true, it was not some kind of fad that we see a lot today. And I have to say that with last release called "Fight For Justice" WarZone did another great milestone in hardcore music. The music was so great that it was almost unbelievable. It was mix of WarZone style and Punk and Oi. They recorded this album not in NY as usual but in Chicago but as I read somewhere the spirit of NYHC has been brought to the sessions and is audible on every track! On this record WarZone continue to teach the new, entertain the elders and balance music with message. With songs like "Locked Out" and "Brother and Sisterhood" that talk about acceptance in hardcore, Warzone is the band that the kids need today. This band understands that the strength that lies in numbers can be quashed by political infighting and unacceptance of difference. Raybeez and Warzone have been there for years and are spreading a positive message of tolerance, individuality and self-respect among all hardcore youth. Warzone are one of the prime examples of why people care about hardcore today. They've been there since the beginning, they've never gone anywhere and they continue to press forward, expanding our ideas of what the music is about.

On 17<sup>th</sup> of September 1997 Ray died because of leukemia... sad but true. And that's how the chapter of one of the best, most sincere and positive bands ends. After his dead Victory Records released album called "Warzone - The Victory Years" - it is a seventeen track collection of Warzone's devastating NYHC rip released in tribute to lead vocalist Raybeez, as well as their final commercial statement. Ray lives in every one of us who has ever listened to WarZone music or read Ray's lyrics or been to their show. I have never seen them live but I wish I did. The struggle for unity goes on...

[www.myspace.com/warzoneraybeez](http://www.myspace.com/warzoneraybeez)

# LIFE IN YOUR WAY

**Hi, my name is Adam...please introduce yourself to all the readers.**

Sure, my name is Joshua and I sing for Connecticut based Life in Your Way.

**Let's start with some facts from LIYW history, OK? Please introduce some main facts that we should all know (where are You from, discography, line-up, maybe some line-up changes)**

The band has been together for over five years now. Through all the member changes the motivation for the band has stayed the same. The band originally started in 99' with my two best friends Todd and Dave. I was on the mic, they were on guitar and drums. We were young but all we strived to do was play shows. It took us almost one year to find our name, putting together well enough structured songs to actually play for people, then having my brother join on bass along with a 2nd guitarist. We tried very hard to keep our passion where it needed to be, in our music and caring for the kids we played for and even others we played with. Connecticut was and still is an awesome place to start a hardcore band. Whether your band is good or even rough around the edges, kids here will embrace the new band. This line up was soon to change, after a few members moving on to other things the band reformed from a very hardcore-metal driven song basis to the melodic sound. After scrapping all the old material the new songs had melody and more passion poured into it than ever. The two new members made us complete

again. Many shows and now longer tours than ever, with all of this we had to put something out on CD. A very heart-felt EP came out. We put this out ourselves to reveal the new material and hopefully find a record label that would support us.

**As far as I know you were playing some kind of metalcore music earlier in your history, why you have changed your style and what has the biggest influence on that change?**

We started thinking about our future. The band was getting serious to where we knew we had to get to where we wanted to be musically. The more metal stuff we were doing just wasn't the kind of music we wanted to be known for. I guess the style came from us knowing that melodic hardcore was something we were listening to and we knew we could write passionate music in this style. The change was something that the band needed.

**Now your band name is rather interesting. Let me know what you meant by calling band like that? And does it have a deeper meaning?**

Sure. The name came from me reading the Bible years ago. There is a book called Psalms, the passage was written by King David. He wrote about how hard life was for him in life to live the way God wanted him to live. The choices were hard for him and he regretted many that he had made. There was a little note at the bottom of the page he talked about how the passage

could also be translated as "life in your way". The meaning is that it's hard to live the way Jesus calls people to live but doing it is still so worth it.

**Many people like to categorize & describe all stuff in their lives. Please write me in which category we should put LIYW music? Emo? Melodic hardcore? Or maybe something else?**

Melodic hardcore is what we always call ourselves. It fits the best for us and that's what people could relate to with us.

**You have released lately your almost brand new CD "Ignite And Rebuild". How do You feel about this CD? And what feedback it gets?**

We're very excited about our release. We poured so much of ourselves into it. The are heart felt and what we want to portray. As far as the feedback, we're so happy with how people are enjoying it. The feedback on tours have been amazing. The overwhelming support in our home state have been awesome too. We've seen some great reviews and people have shown us so much enthusiasm about the new record. It's been awesome.

**And what was the main idea behind the title of the album "Ignite And Rebuild"?**

The title has a lot of meaning over all for this album. Ignite means to get rid of the old ways in our hearts to begin a new fresh start. So ignite the old to rebuild what was left of the good in our lives. People have



taken it many different ways, many are good so I don't when others take it and make it their own.

**Your compositions are rather fast, melodic and very heavy. I was wondering how does the writing process go for a band like Life In Your Way. Who takes care of typical music stuff, who is doing lyrics etc.?**

The music seems to come together with one idea first. It might be a good riff or a great lead. It really starts with the guitar work first. Dave and James will come to us with at least a small part of what should be the beginning of a song. John will put a beat to it and Jerry will throw down some bass. The beginnings of a song usually start out a little more simple than the finish product. Sometimes our songs will be totally written over and over before they become solid. 99% of the time I can't put lyrics to a song without it being at least half way done, I like to see where it's going before so can get an overall feel for it. One big question I we get is that do we write the lyrics first then write the music to it or the other way around. The answer for us is for us that we write the music first then put the lyrics to that. I know bands do it all different ways but that's what we find to be most efficient.

**Now I can ask You about the lyrics. I think that they are good lyrics, person who takes care of it in the band did good job. Do you have some kind of whole concept? Or maybe the particular lyrics talk about particular issues?**

Ideas come about and have to be put on paper. I enjoy coming up with a topic that means a lot to me and make it into a song. An idea that can impact someone in ways that the lyrics can relate with that person. Sometimes things just flow and that's what gets put to a song. I believe talking about issues and bringing up things in song put things out there. It's a great way to show people your heart.

**Where does the inspiration come from for the lyrics?**

Many things. One is that I'm a Christian, another would be growing up the way I did. Having family and friends go through really hard times. I like it when people write for something more than just themselves. Life can be hard and it takes so much out of you, lyrics can portray that for me.

**One of the most interesting lyrics for me personally is one called "When rules change". Can you write what the lyric is about?**

That song is about the hardcore scene and where it's been going lately. As a band we've been really disappointed about how kids treat each other. Whether it is in the mosh pit or just how much of a family style thing that hardcore was and now is not. We've been really down about these things. This song is about how we're going to try to up to some of these things. Making hardcore something that's fun and enjoyable all around, so much of it isn't any more. The lyrics are about coming together and knowing that we're all kids (or like kids) and we should be willing to work with one another.

**I think that one of the most important issues that comes from your CD is positive attitude. I thought it's hard for American band to stay positive cause most of the bands from USA that are popular are**

**rather not positive. Why do You think is it so?**

I don't know. I guess it's easy to get people excited in an angry way. You know like "F you, I'll do what I want" attitude. I believe it can come from people not being real with themselves, not knowing where and what they base their lives in. It's sad and I hope that people can be real and know that how you treat people is going to come back around to you.

**Graphic side of your CD. Layout is amazing. Can you explain who did and whose idea was that? And what was your main concept in working with layout? To go together with lyrics? Or you just wanted to have 'pretty looking' cover?**

We told the graphic artist the name for the album and we told him to do what he felt was good. The artwork came out really good with the lyrics and all.

**Now please tell us how did you get signed to Indianola Records? And how does the cooperation between band and recording company look like?**

**Are you satisfied with it?**

While on tour in the summer of '02 we found ourselves stuck without a show the next night. Being in Birmingham, AL with no contacts anywhere near there, we were looking for anything. The next day came and the friend that we were staying with got us on a show in Valdosta, GA. Just after getting the offer we jumped into the van for the long drive to the show. Playing after all the other bands and almost no one left to watch we still played our hearts out and were thankful for the show. After getting home and having a few months go by the label (Indianola) contacts us about a deal, not knowing until then that the two main guys who run the label also ran that show and were very impressed with our set. One of the founders of the label happened to be living in Connecticut at the time, things worked out very well. Also, he became one of my best friends.

Working with them has been pretty easy. They will work as hard as they can for you, always trying to fight for good press, a good recording, tours etc... The great thing about Indianola is that they are always pushing forward. Trying to grow as a label is such a big goal of theirs. It's nice to know they are guys who have good hearts, caring about what they're doing.

**And in Europe your CD is released by Guideline Productions. How does the cooperation look like?**

It's worked out really good. The owner has been a good friend of ours for almost one year now. He is an awesome guy and he loves good hardcore. He offered us the deal to release the new CD in Europe. And with the deal he offered a tour in Europe also. It's been a really good thing for us. Getting our CD out more and having chance of a life time to tour in Europe.

**How does Christianity influence your life, personal and band's life?**

It influences everything for me. The life we're supposed to live as Christians calls for everything to be related in that sense. There is always room for improvement in life, being a Christian. For the band, it also has everything to do with it. The way we try to treat people is directly influenced by our faith. It's a huge thing in our lives, we take it everywhere.

**You said once (I think it was written in your bio) that "Our music is written to inspire with truth**

**and love". Do you think that's true? And that your music inspires other people?**

Yeah sure, that's our goal. We know it inspires some of our friends and we only hope it can do the same for others. We are a band that will try hard to make a positive impact on people at shows. It's one of our biggest motivations.

**Is LIYW your normal job, or is this just a project? If this is just a part time project let us know what are you doing in your "normal" life?**

I put a lot of time into the band but it still doesn't pay the bills back at home. I work with my father in carpentry. Our specialty is working on old homes and barns, 18th and 19th century. It's a good job it's usually easy to get off for touring.

**Please tell us some band names that you listen to lately...**

Ok. The new Thrice is really good. Our tour in Europe has been great so the band we're with has my ear lately. More Than Ever. Others would be With Honor, Brutal Fight, Copeland, Over the Rhine, As Cities Burn, Shi Hulud and others.

**Here you have some place to make some kind of advert of your last CD, how could you describe it in best words.**

We had member changes for the CD so what we wrote was what we got.

**European tour....I know that soon you go to Europe to play some shows. What are your expectations? What do you know, think of Europe today?**

We don't have too many expectations except that we hear that the Europe scene is really cool and positive. We're really excited to be here in Europe, to see more of the world and play shows is a dream come true. All of Europe that we've seen is beautiful and worth all the hard work for this tour. We're having a blast.

**And if you answer to it after European shows please write few sentences about European tour, shows, people, places. Differences between USA and Europe that you noticed and all stuff that come to your mind.**

Sure, two nights ago we played in a small town in east Germany, the kids were awesome. We had a lot of kids singing along, making it one of the most fun shows ever for the band. Just amazing. The hospitality has been great, from people putting us up in their homes to the promoters at the venues being so nice in every aspect. Our tour here has been one of the best we've ever had. We hope to come back and have an even better response.

**Last comments...anything to add?**

Sure, thanks so much for the interview. I hope all the readers are able to relate with something that the band is about. I'd say to anyone that reads this they should get online and check our music, hopefully you'll like it and find yourself liking our music. Thanks again and take care.

# UNDERHILL RECORDS

Underhill Records is based in Spain label and it started working in 1998 when founders decided to release a compilation from a lot of bands that they liked, most of them Spanish and that was named 'Things We Say', that album included first recordings from bands that afterwards were some of the most important in Spanish hardcore music, such as Xmilk, Aina, All Ill, A Room With A View, Sheregano... And that was the beginning of Underhill Records. Afterwards UR started releasing other stuff from all different genres that would go from pop to deathcore and trying to do things on a more professional way. The name is quite original but as one of the owners says „I think there isn't really an idea behind the name, it wasn't chosen because of its meaning but of its sounding hehe, it was just a name that sounded nice to us and that was all.”

What are the main reasons to establish label? Money? Popularity? Not in this case! Main reason was to help bands to spread their music, there were many bands which were playing great music but were really unknown and they had no label to support them. These bands were not just from Spain!

As you all probably have noticed Underhill Records is one of the most original labels around! I don't know any other label that supports so many different music styles. Their bands play emotional rock, pop, crazy metal, sludge metal, some hardcore stuff... And this is how Alberto from UR explains why is it so: „Well, one of the things I like from the label, is that we release different stuff, we are not a metal label, or a hardcore label or a pop label, but we've released metal, hardcore, rock and pop, and that's what I really enjoy, I think there's great stuff in every genre and we just want to release things we like.” And that's good way to see these things!

One of the best aspects of UR CDS is their layouts! I have never seen such amazing ones. They all do good job with graphics! And some are really totally crazy! You have to take a look at them! And they don't do it to sell more CDS but they do it for themselves and people who buy CDS cause they treat cover as something really important. „It's good to have an album with great artwork.” I have nothing to add, last sentence says it all!

I was wondering if there are any boundaries in releasing stuff. Are there any bands or music genres that UR doesn't want to release. And this is what Alberto says about that: „We would not release bands that we couldn't take along well, we are nowadays friends with all the bands, and that's something we are proud about, so we wouldn't sign someone if we thought that there was going to be a bad relationship. About genres, well, it's hard to say, I personally don't like rap music a lot for instance, so it's hard we would sign a rap band, but I guess that if we heard an album and we loved it... anything could be I guess.” So as you can see just send your demo to this crazy guys if you think you play good music and there are big chances to have your CD released on Underhill!

I was always interested in this process of choosing bands to be released. Here you have words that should help you to understand this process: „Well,

we currently receive loads of demos and albums from bands all around the planet, something that makes us happy, but that makes it hard for us to choose as well. The perfect thing for us is to be able to see the band live, because it's important for us that the band sounds good live. We've signed bands from many different ways, some of them were signed just because they sent the album and we loved it, some others because we saw them live and loved it and others because we already knew them and loved them hehe.”

Ideology. On the scene nowadays there is less and less ideology in everything. Underhill supports DIY ideology. They do everything by themselves. It's good because they have complete control over everything they do. And friendship is important issue. Label was growing in past few years but still remembered about roots and always helping friends.

And for all people who wants to start a label you have to know something about financial side of this business. If you want to treat it as a hobby you can take example from Underhill Records „The label is completely a hobby, I must say that the financial thing is being improving in the last 2 or 3 years, and we are doing better at time. We could even get some money from the label, but for the moment, we'd rather use that money to release more albums and do more promo for the bands, so yeah, it's a hobby for us and we are really happy about that.” So as you see if you want to have developing label you have to invest lots of money in it!

Frankly speaking Underhill Records are just 3 persons. I thought that they are more but no! Just 3! One of them is in charge of the artwork, web site (new one should be online soon) and all the artistic side of the label. Other two persons take care of the rest of the things, such as promo, distribution, booking shows for the bands, and so on.

I asked Alberto how he sees UR in the future. And this is what he said: „I kind of see it similar to what it is now, a familiar label, hopefully a little bigger hehe, but I don't think it'll change a lot. About plans, we've got a lot of things planned but only a few of them confirmed, we'll be releasing the new albums from Lukestar, La célula durmiente and Moksha. And we are working on some other releases from some Norwegian, Swedish and Spanish bands, but we'll see what happens hehe.”

And now I will write where CDS from this Spanish label are distributed: France, Germany, Austria, Holland, Greece, The UK, The USA, Japan, Slovenia, some countries of South America.

This is what Alberto added in last answer: “hopefully

someone can read this and get interested in some of the stuff we release”. And I can just add that if you are not familiar with any of Underhill Records CDS you have to check'em out! Beneath you will find complete discography but around half of them are already sold out!

## DISCOGRAPHY:

- Hg 01 - VA - 'things we say'
- Hg 02 - half foot outside - 'paint red'
- Hg 03 - uziel/nous - 'the collection series'
- Hg 04 - maple - 'rebeca believes'
- Hg 05 - kurt - 'larga duración'
- Hg 06 - 20inchburial/pn - 'the collection series II'
- Hg 07 - delorean - 'silhouettes'
- Hg 08 - hopeful/uziel - 'the collection series III'
- Hg 09 - moksha - antaryamin
- Hg 10 - 20inchburial - 'the void we carry'
- Hg 11 - maple - 'schematic' 7"
- Hg 12 - moksha - 'the five leafs of oblivion'
- Hg 13 - kidsgofree - 'e'
- Hg 14 - uziel - 'pulse'
- Hg 15 - VA - 'underhill compilation vol.1'
- Hg 16 - john palmoore - 'anne parfect'
- Hg 17 - moksha - 'ansium'
- Hg 18 - maple - 'another side of'
- Hg 19 - lukestar - 'alpine unit'
- Hg 20 - kidsgofree - 'dobra'
- Hg 21 - moksha - 'supersilver haze'
- Hg 22 - la célula durmiente - 'perverso universo'
- Hg 23 - beezewax - 'south of boredom'
- Hg 24 - ipanema - 'me me me'
- Hg 25 - arkanoid - 'get yourself influenced'

[www.underhillrecs.com](http://www.underhillrecs.com)

[www.myspace.com/  
underhillrecords](http://www.myspace.com/underhillrecords)





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### 13TH DRAFT 'Where Do We Go From Here...?' CD (Lifeline)

13th Draft is a band based in Grudziadz, Poland (from the same city is Faust Again). Guys do like emo, screamo with some metal influences. As a name says emo music is fulfilled with emotions. "Where Do We Go From Here...?" is like a journey to unknown places, seeking some new places in our mind. At the end of this journey we will find out what there music is about! And probably there will be more than one solution. I have to mention that I can hear a big inspiration by old Underoath here... And I mean it! Every small detail and sound is perfectly done! This CD has a lot of power, energy and emotions which touch us from inside. I like the cover and booklet. It's rather simple but everything is readable and clear. Come on and let yourself go into this journey! (Eddie)

### A as in ADDICTION

#### A STEP APART 'Structure' EP (Not Just Words)

I was very astonished when I got this promo. As far as I remember A Step Apart recorded about half year later its best album called "There Is A Choice". I can see that these guyz do not like to do nothing. They work hard! Good! If I compare those 2 records I can say that "Structure" is a bit slower. But it is still old school hardcore inspired by Chain Of Strength and Turning Point. This EP is maybe more mature than previous one. I can't see any disadvantages of this 7". Cover is very typical for this genre. Picture from show plus logo of the band and name of the EP. Lyrics are very personal. What was weird that I couldn't find any lyric about vegetarianism. On the last one there were many about this issue. Hmm... This EP is really good portion of old school hardcore! (Eddie)

#### ACTION 'Weeping Of Angels' CD (DeadButcher)

Action is a band from Czech Republic. This is their 3<sup>rd</sup> official release and in my opinion the best till today. When I heard name Action I always heard the metalcore a'la Arkangel. But from this record I will no longer hear it. Cause now Action, through all these years of existence, has found their own style. Music is very brutal, aggressive and it kicks ass! I say that this is metalcore record but I have to add that it is mosh killing machine. When the boyz slowing down a bit one can mosh it up in the room. Geniuses! Vocalist left very good impressions on me, he tries to diversify his voice and this is better for the band! Guitar players show us their unlimited skills and from time to time we are hit by solos! New member of the band on this CD is a drummer but he passed the exam. There is nothing hard for him. He can play everything from double basses, fast parts, blasts... this dude is crazy! I like the sound of this CD. I can feel power when I listen to the "Weeping Of Angels". This is for fans of: Born From Pain, Unearth, Arkangel, Full Blown Chaos. Get in the Action and mosh it up! (Eddie)

#### ANTIGAMA 'Zeroland' CD (Selfamdegod)

Antigama surprised me with thei 3rd full lengths. Good word to define this album is experimentalism. On "Zeroland" these Polish dudes show us wide range of their skills and many interesting ideas that can be heard on this CD. I know that previous full lengths were highly marked by many reviewers and "Zeroland" was one of the highly anticipated record. And I think that with this new set Antigama's fan club will grow even bigger. For this band adjective "unique" suits for sure, it doesn't follow any trends. Frankly speaking they discover new paths and create trends! Music which can be heard on "Zeroland" can be tasty dish for all The Dillinger Escape Plan fans. Rhythm and

tempos are weird, tempos are very diversified, strange, psycho guitar riffs and crazy vocalist. It is some mix of math-core and grind. But it is just a try to label them. I think they are over all these genres. They just mix it all. Last track show us how hard is to classify them! Polish band, Polish label show that Poles can do it! (Eddie)

#### ARKANGEL 'Prayers Upon Deaf Ears' CD (Lifeline)

This CD was re-released by polish new label called Lifeline Recs. There are 2 changes in comparing to original version. First one is that this CD was now released in digipack and booklet is changed a bit and second one is that we have here additionally video to track called "How we see the world" from Arkangel's latest release called "Hope You Die By Overdose" released by Private Hell Records. What can I say about "Prayers..."? One thing for sure... this CD is as great as it was when I heard it for the first time! Pure aggression! Good stuff is just unbreakable by time! For all those who don't know first Arkangel CD this is good opportunity to check it out! (Eddie)

#### AS HOPE DIES 'S/T' EP (Still Life)

As Hope Dies comes from Orange County in California. Band split up somehow in May or June of 2005 and thanks to Still Life Records we have a chance to listen to their last songs. This EP contains 5 tracks with some melodic deathcore music. This is how AHD members were speaking about their music. What are characteristic features of their music? For sure lots of tempos changes from ultra fast till slow ones. Lots of double basses, great melodic riffs and demonic vocal. Additionally great sound. I always admired this band for technical skills, for ideas, for music, for emotions and for being honest. You should read the lyrics cause they talk about simple things in unusual way! Prayer For Cleansing meets Shai Hulud! Destroy everything! (Eddie)

### B as in BLIND

#### BLUE MONDAY vs GO IT ALONE (Rivalry)

Another awesome split 7" from Rivalry Records. These guys really have a great taste picking out awesome hardcore bands. This time Go It Alone and Blue Monday, the friends from Vancouver are teaming up for a 6 song EP. Go It Alone make the start and they continue where they left with their LP "The Only Blood Between Us". I dig this harsh and rough voice of their singer which adds this pissed off touch to their driving and melodic tunes. GIT's side has a thick production which is not too polished and just adds some more power to their intense songs. Their two own songs "Ovaltine" and "West Boulevard" perform this mixture between driving fast parts and groovy slow mosh parts. Each of the songs has a rather melodic edge through the second guitar, which adds a catchy and energetic note to the music. Blue Monday don't deceive either. Just like GIT's Mark Palm their singer has also a very good voice that fits their music. The two own songs of Blue Monday are a little bit slower than the counterpart of Go It Alone but they also combine their songwriting skills with a very good production that supports the song and still leaves a rough touch. Both bands cover songs from Reserve 34, which was a local band from Vancouver. These two bands do fit very well together because somehow their sound resembles each

# REVIEWS

other but unlike many bands have their own style. I think the two recent split releases of Rivalry Recs are definitely some of the best 7"es so far this year. (LB)

## G as in GOMARO

### CHAMPION vs BETRAYED (Rivalry)

Here we go with a 7" of two awesome oldschool bands. Champion and Betrayed are teaming up for a 6 song EP and they for sure don't disappoint anyone here. This record is basically a consequence, because Aram from Champion is performing Betrayed's vocals and Todd Preboski is doing the drumming. So it's just logical to put out Champion's final 3 songs together with this new band, that sets out to tour a lot and play a hell of a lot of shows all over the world. I would say Betrayed definitely are the winners for me because I like their melodic guitar riffing very much and their music sounds a lot more fresh and energetic. It's really driving and I enjoy every second of it. Whereas I have to admit that I actually like the Addiction EP a little bit more. Champion's part is still very good but I don't get as much into it and I'm also not their biggest fan, so somehow there's something missing here for me. Still I think every fan of Champion will be served what he or she expects. Betrayed's "Consequence" is the total killer catchy song with this typical groovy parts mixed with loads of backup choirs and singalongs. This song is really awesome, because it offers what I was hoping for after listening to the incredible Addiction EP. I think they have already created their typical sound and I'm curious about their upcoming full length. Other two Betrayed songs are really good but not as catchy as "Consequence" unfortunately but you definitely won't be let down. I'm really looking forward to their European tour and to see this band on stage. (LB)

### CONDOLENCIA 'The Order That Shall Be' (Storm Of Justice)

New label around from Switzerland ([www.veganstraightedge.ch](http://www.veganstraightedge.ch)) called Storm Of Justice has just released MCD of Brazil based band called Condolencia. There are 5 tracks here which can be grouped in genre called metalcore. Heavy as hell sound, Slayer like riffs, screaming vocals. It can be a bit compared to Purification. Guyz are trying to show us the face of good old edge metal. And it sounds not bad at all but I lack something in this music. Fortunately songs don't sound the same and thanks to do that this MCD is not going to bore us. They differ with tempos - there are some average tempos but also some slower parts and then they sound a bit like mix of Slayer and Shattered Realm! I love it! Condolencia lyrically is about vegan straight edge. Lyrics are about animal liberation, animal rights. Please go to the myspace site to know something more about the band: [www.myspace.com/xcondolencia](http://www.myspace.com/xcondolencia) (Eddie)

### CRISIS NEVER ENDS 'A Heartbeat Away' CD (Beniihana)

Crisis Never Ends are from Stuttgart and Beniihana Records released their new record entitled "A Heartbeat Away", which is their second full length. They might play metallic hardcore but actually it's more metal than mosh and these guys show that there's still real quality around. I have the impression that among those so called metalcore releases the best one came still from the smaller labels and "A Heartbeat Away"

is no exception. I just recently saw these guys playing live and they were just these sympathetic dudes having fun on stage and that was really awesome. I've seen too many bad metalcore bands posing around on stage like mad and showing off rehearsed gestures whereas these guys just love what they do and that also shows in their stage appearance. These guys seem to have listened to quite a few Iron Maiden and In Flames records and know how to play their stuff. "A Heartbeat Away" starts with a quiet guitar melody but that is just the intro. After a few seconds the first song "Eaten Alive" really begins. Even though you have some slow parts in all of the songs they never slow down too much. I also dig the groove part that they have in a lot of songs. The whole record still has to me a hardcore flair while the riffing is mostly metal influenced but the vibe of the record is still hardcore. The last song "All I Got" is like the total melodic death metal guitar overpower cliché hymn and it's awesome. It starts off with a heavily In Flames influenced harmonic guitar riffs followed by a slower part which passes over into a mosh part and is followed by a really fast melodic solo. The whole song pays tribute to a lot of influences and is really great and finishes the record with the same melody that opens the record. A very good release and everyone who has the slightest interest in metal with hardcore attitude should get this record. (LB)

## H as in HANGER

### DARK DAY DUNGEON 'By Blood Undone' (Let It Burn)

I really had big expectations for Dark Day Dungeon's album since their debut album "Know Your Enemy" was a true statement of brutality and anger but with "By Blood Undone" they exceed all of my expectations! Since today's metalcore bands start to add more and more harmonic pieces as well as clean singing or just play death metal Dark Day Dungeon are back with a vengeance of true metalcore that fuses the best elements of hardcore and metal to an unforgettable mixture! The album opens with pummeling drums and razor-sharp guitars till Mosh joins with his brutal low shouts. The complete song entitled "Stars Fall From The Sky" is pure annihilation, it's just incredible how these guys change from brutal mid-tempo to fast paced pieces! I often listen to bands where a few musicians are great and the rest of the band lacks but this is not the case with DDD, everyone of these guys know how to handle his instrument, from the guitars to vocals, drums and bass! What an opener and they just continue with the second song "Temptation's Plan" where they offer a fast paced melodic death metal tinged track that's over and over again interrupted by massive groove passages. At "Cold Winter Days" they step on the accelerator with the perfect blend of brutal mosh and metal tinged guitar leads but they also slow down at the end of the songs with another great grooving passage while Mosh shouts and screams at the top of his lungs. Whereat mostly Mosh offers low shouts he now and then throws in high-pitched screams which add the right alternation to his vocal assault. "Empty Words" was already available in advance and presents a nice bunch of metal styled solos paired with their stunning brutality. Contrary to a lot of bands this band is still true, true to their selves and musical roots but still able to add innovations and make just good music! With "By Blood Undone" Dark Day Dungeon show the world who are

the true masters of brutality, if it comes to Metalcore this is your reference, mean, angry, massive and brutal. They combined hardcore with the right portion of metal! (Marcel)

### DEAD STOP 'Live For Nothing' (Complete Control)

Sometimes I like story-telling so I need to tell you a little story about Belgium's own Dead Stop, my dear friend Dominik recommend me Dead Stop a few times within the last few months and even handed me a CD including their "Done With You" album. After months I never listened to the band and just thought, Dominik is overvaluing them, until the day (today) Complete Control Records sent me the new CD version by Dead Stop's sophomore record "Live For Nothing" and I put it into my player! I was so fucking wrong about this band, Dominik is the true music expert and I'm just a dork. If you like hardcore you'll love this band. This is hardcore it's meant to be, snotty, fast and pissed. Beside the few guitar solos their sound often remind me of glorious sxe inventors Minor Threat or early 80ies heroes Negative Approach and in this case I say: fuck innovation. If a band could bring the spirit of '81 back to life they have all my respect. Every second of this album is just like a punch of true old styled hardcore and even after more than ten listens (the album clocks under 16 minutes) I enjoy every second. Beside all the thrashing madness they also offer a slow down song with the closing track "Letting Go" with mid-tempo rhythms, Lino's significant shouts and with over three minutes playtime by far the longest track of the album. Let's get back to the start, the album opens with the short and angry blast "Walk The Line" clocking under the 1-minute-mark. "Bend And Break" is the right follower with relentless driving hardcore beats and pissed off vocals. The whole album seems to have no interruption one firework after another comes out of my speakers! One of my personal favorites is "Locked Inside" through its groovy approach and cutting guitar riffs. To this extraordinary musical experience Complete Control Records (run by Dead Stop members) added a nice digipack including their straight to the point lyrics. Get it! (Marcel)

### DRIED WHITE ROSE 'My Dimly Lit Room' (DIY)

Here we have something totally different no hardcore, no metal, this time I've got some quiet ambient tunes to review. Dried White Rose is one young guy called Niko and for those who want to know, he lives in Ibbenbueren north of the Ruhrpott area. Besides doing that he's also doing design works and organizes shows. This release, "My Dimly Lit Room", is a 6 track CD-R demo which comes with a simple but very nice b/w-cover and is limited to 50 pieces. But now onto the music. I like this kind of style as it creates a very relaxed atmosphere and it fills your room with a certain mood. Besides from rather normal instruments like keyboards he's also recording tunes with his bass and his drums and then creates the sounds and songs with the recorded material. If you listen to the CD I feel really good it gives you the perfect ambience to think, to relax or just do stuff you want to have some music surrounding you but in a very unobtrusive way. This is just instrumental electronic music only one time there's a sample with a female voice in the 3rd song. My favorite track is the 4th song on the CD-R, "Cold, Lost & Forgotten". It's almost 17 minutes long and it creates a mood that makes you feel good. But not good

in the sense of excited, good in the sense of in balance with yourself. The last track which is I think something like a hidden track because it starts with 1.5 minutes of silence is a bass solo track with a nice and laid-back melody which gets repeated several times and then fades out to finish the CD. Awesome. Get in touch with Niko at or check the myspace page: [www.myspace.com/driedwhiterose](http://www.myspace.com/driedwhiterose). (LB)

## Das in EXPECTATIONS

### ENDSTAND 'The Time Is Now' CD (Lifeforce)

New band in Lifeforce. When I got promo stuff from Lifeforce I was astonished by CDS. 1<sup>st</sup> one was heavy metal gods from Herod and now Endstand. I always was a fan of this band from Finland. And I am so happy that now they are on one of the best European labels. They exist over 10 years and their discography is full of splits, MCDs and 2 full lengths. Endstand plays hardcore but with some melodies. And their new CD is a blast. I love it right from the beginning! Great riffs, some melodies played by two guitar players make my heart warmer. Drummer plays the best beats of his life. Lots of tempo changes, they differentiate from slow through average to fast! Awesome show of skills! Voice of the frontman is one of the few things the most recognizable for this band. I can feel flame leaking from his mouth, I can feel all words he screams burned on my skin... This is some kind of journey to the depths of my soul! I want more... I can say that for me it is the best Endstand CD up to date! (Eddie)

## Das in FAULT

### FALL BEHIND 'Between The Devil And The Deep Blue Sea' CD (Lifeline)

On the first sight one can say that this CD has just layout! It is on very high level! Second thing which is very important and must check for all you up there are the lyrics. Lately bands don't care about the message just about the music. In this case it's music and words are weapon! I just want to give one example of quotation "...I don't wanna be an ant, you know!". This is what theirs lyrics are about, not to become one of many ants on this world! Be yourself! Fight with stupidity, segregation, blind believers... One should read this lyrics and think about them for a while! Now we can go to step three which is the music. FB plays energetic hybrid of hardcore and metal – and I just want to add that this is not metalcore! I can't compare this band to another 'cause what they do is so fresh and new... There are some metal, melodic riffs, good percussion beats. But what is the best on this CD are vocals done by young, angry kiddo. Shit! This kid is mad and he wants to spit his lungs out to scream about everything what hurts him in modern world. Lots of emotions in their music... Emotion that can be felt by just pressing "play" on our HI-FI... You'd better check it or else... (Eddie)

### FEAR MY THOUGHTS 'Smell Sweet Smell' (Let It Burn)

These dudes do not take anything for serious. "Smell Sweet Smell" is Fear My Thoughts' answer to their current record "Hell Sweet Hell". I think the devil shouts at these guys and not vice versa. "Smell Sweet Smell" is the compilation of the first two full lengths "23" and "Vitriol", which came out on LetItBurn

Records in 2001 and 2002 respectively. I remember listening to "23" over weeks when bought it back then because at that time it was a rather uncommon thing when hardcore bands played metal riffs on a high level and were not just using the Arkangel styled Slayerish riffs all of the time. It must have been around that time when I also saw them live and I've actually seen someone in a hardcore bands doing real metal tappings and already at that time the band was extraordinary because both of their guitar players knew how to play guitar and I really mean playing and not just shredding. OK but back from those old time rants. On "23" the band was obviously trying to find their style and so they were experimenting a lot on this one using lots of samples, which I think fit all very well but if you have listened to the record a lot it was rather annoying listening 2 minutes to an intro before the actual song started. Back then Lisa Graf played violin for them and was also performing live with them from time to time. "Vitriol" paved the way for their current releases, as the band themselves states in the liner notes. The sound is more metallic, less experimental than on "23", less samples and more straight forward songs. It's still a joy to listen to these songs because what I like about their song writing back then are these quiet parts which suddenly get interrupted by thrashing metal and are suddenly quiet again. There you could still hear the chaos influences they had earlier. This discography comes with an awesome new layout and artwork, liner notes from the band about their view on these releases now and from which perspective these songs were written back then. As both these releases are sold out I think Chris from LetItBurn made a wise decision putting out this record and showing the origin of this awesome band. (LB)

### FINAL PRAYER 'Right Here, Right Now' CD (Let It Burn)

Final Prayer's "Right Here, Right Now" is their first full length record and their debut on Munich based LetItBurn Records. This record is definitely not for the faint at heart, loads of mosh, loads of agro shouting, double bass and a top notch production from the Kohlekeller studios. Despite being from Berlin, Final Prayer seem to have a good connection to some of Stuttgart's bands and people. Micha from Teamkiller as well as Jogges from Sidekick did guest vocals in two songs. Already their 2004 demo "First Round Knockout" was released by Our World records from Stuttgart. The first song "Broken Mirror" already makes it clear that Final Prayer take no prisoners and this paves the way for the rest of the record. Tough guy voice, slow mosh, double bass, it may sound like a standard recipe but Final Prayer know how to mix these elements and even though I'm not the biggest fan of this kind of style I really dig this aggressive vibe of the record. My favorite track on this record is "The Anthem" because besides the slow and the mosh parts it's also offering groovy parts together with gang vocals. A total killer track is also "No Place To Turn" with Jogges doing guest vocals starting off with a hellish fast metallic riff going over into a slow moshy passage followed by one of these awesome groove parts. Final Prayer never let you breathe, either they're playing something really aggressive or step on the accelerator. (LB)

## Das in HONESTY

# HEAT

### HERMAN RAREBELL 'Too Late For Peace...' CD (Selfmade God)

Herman Rarebell is a band of people connected with Antigama and Third Degree. If you like one these bands you should check out Herman's release. Grind mixed with crust this is what interest those guyz. 15 tracks in 18 minutes. Lots of blasts, changes of tempos, screams. Tracks are finished even before they start for a good. I can hear in their music some Lock Up influences. This CD includes 3 covers: 2 Napalm Death's and 1 from Doom discography. Very good! Most of Herman's songs can be described as a simple, high-octane, easy to remember catchy hits. Plus big sense of humor. This is their charm. It is too late for peace... (Travis Bickle)

### HEROD 'Rich Man's War...Poor Man's Fight' CD (Lifeforce)

Herod is great heavy metal band from USA. Lifeforce is rather metalcore label but this time we have been knockdown with heavy metal CD. If you don't like heavy metal you better stop reading this review. But if you are a fan of Iron Maiden, Judas Priest, James Murphy better check it out! I have not heard 1<sup>st</sup> CD of those Americans so it is hard to compare me both of them. I will just write what I can hear! First of all vocals, two kinds of them: heavy as fuck Judas Priest style and the other one more brutal, hard, lower scream. But they both are from the same throat. Guitars are just awesome, heavy riffs, lots of melodies, solos. We can find here all basic elements of heavy metal music. Tempos are slow or average. And we have here even one heavy metal ballad. Worship heavy or die! (Eddie)

### HIMSA 'Hail Horror' (Prosthetic)

Some of you might know that I'm really into Himsa and personally just love this band! With their last album "Courting Tragedy And Disaster" they offered one of the best Swedish/melodic guitar driven brutal hardcore assaults and the highly awaited follow-up "Hail Horror" exceed all my expectations. "Hail Horror" isn't "Courting Tragedy And Disaster" No. 2 because band changed their sound a little bit but it's unmistakable Himsa with their combination of melodic metal, hardcore and John Pettibone's rough shouts. The album starts with "Anathema" and ringing church bells until guitarists and drummer join the fold with a heavy groove attack. Already after 30 seconds the band starts a fast-paced part with razor-sharp guitar riffing and also John joins with angry shouts and although they also slow down with guitar solos the track is still a fast smasher. They immediately go on with "Sleezevil" which was available in advance and it's a quite typical Himsa track, fast melodies driven metalcore with a significant hardcore touch also caused by John's rough shouts. The band also slows down with hammering mid-tempo parts. Generally I think Himsa increased the usage of melodic but also moshing riffs and the record gets an even more heavy mood through the massive brutality. The next song "The Destroyer" is introduced by electronically noises but the band soon starts their heavy assault of moshing riffs and a massive rhythm section. "Pestilence" is a track that would perfectly fit on their last album since it offers fast metalcore with wonderful recurring melodic guitar riffing and definitely one reason why I felt in love with this band, I would almost say the perfect combination of Swedish styled melodies with uncontrollable aggression.

"Hail Horror" again contains tons of highlights but "Pestilence" is definitely a track everyone need to check out! Apart from the fact that the whole album kicks ass I have to mention some of my personal favorites like the fifth song "Wither". The song opens with a long-termed and slow downed instrumental part until the band finally steps on the accelerator after 1 1/2 minutes with another melodic riffing festival, this is just a pure punch in your face! "Seminal" was one of the tracks the band recently performed live at their show in Munich and opens with edge cutting melodic riffs and continues with brutal straight up metal and an earwig chorus growled by John with the recurring melodic riffs in the background. If you need some thrash influenced stuff you better check out the ninth song "Calling In Silent" which is just a merciless attack of thrash driven rhythms. The album closes with another thrashing attack with a Swedish touch called "Send Down Your Reign". In conclusion Umsa present a worthy successor for their last album where they increased the melodies but also the brutality. Awesome work! (Marcel)

### HIT ME BACK 'Life' LP/CD (Refuse Records)

This band comes from sunny California (L.A.). It has released some 7 inches and demos earlier but this is their debut full length. We have 13 brand new tracks here and I have to write that CD version is richer in 8 tracks (7 of them are from „Only The magic School Bus Goes Back In Time“ EP and 1 has never been released!). Music can be described us fast, energetic oldschool hardcore with some thrash elements. Songs are loaded with melody which touched me inside (hope you know what I mean hehe). I like voice of the vocalist very much because of its readability. It's scream but very clear one. I also like all choirs! Sound is very good and I think it is thanks to Mr. Craig Ums (WHN?). Energetic bomb ready to explode! This CD/LP was released in cooperation of American labels 625 Productions and Pux Before Profits Records with Polish label called Refuse Records. Congratulations! (Eddie)

### I as in INDIVIDUAL

#### IF HOPE DIES 'Life In Ruin' CD (Metal Blade)

If Hope Dies comes from Auburn, NY, USA. They play metalcore with their own touch. There are many bands playing this genre nowadays. Sometimes I think too many! But If Hope Dies is one of the few that I like. I don't know exactly why... Let's check this out together! As every single metalcore band IHD has some metal/thrash riffs, hardcore breakdowns and hardcore alike vocals. What's different...for sure vocalist has his own timbre! After listening to him once you will remember his voice forever. Brutal as fuck! I like also riffs that were created for the "Life In Ruin". Guitar players are doing their best to show all their abilities! I like how they play some riffs and immediately they start playing mosh parts...yeah! They do have some melody in their songs I can even call few of them catchy! The best song for me is one called "The Ultimate Nullifier". Energy leaking from this CD is not going to be wasted! (Eddie)

#### INCARNATED 'Pleasure of Consumption' CD (Selfmade God)

Incarnated does not discover America. This is what I think after listening to this CD. But 2<sup>nd</sup> thought is – and why should I care? They do play high quality

music with lots of energy in it. And they are inspired by sound and style of legendary Dismember. It can't be bad. If they tried to be another Cannibal Corpse it would be bad for them because there hundreds of such bands. How many bands play today in Swedish style (and I am not talking about last In Flames shit)? Not to many! And that's why I want to praise Incarnated for their comeback to what is good. And it is not so simple. Tempo on the CD is monotonous and overwhelming. Just imagine Dismember on amphetamine. Add low growling. And you have Incarnated. One has to be strong to listen to all songs in a row. 10 new tracks and 3 older one give us about 45 minutes CD. And I was thinking about the cover... maybe like Carcass in old times, now Incarnated tried to discourage eating meats (Travis Bickle)

### IN TWILIGHT'S EMBRACE 'Buried In Between' CD (Lifeline)

In Twilight's Embrace is straight metalcore shit in your face! After short intro we have just pure metalcore. No fuckin clean singing or melodies like Calibon shit or Raunchy! Pure, aggressive metal with hardcore background. This is what I like. And what I have to add this is their debut CD and I was surprised by quality of this record. Great ideas for riffs, beats, double basses, faster tempos mixed with slower, vocals. And everything done just the way it should be. CD was released by Lifeline Records and this is sign of the highest quality. Great layout packed in great digipack! This release doesn't have any weak points. If you are looking for a band that plays metalcore in veins of old Calibon, HSB check In Twilight's Embrace! (Eddie)

### J as in JUDGE

#### JAPANISCHE KAMPFHORSPIELE vs DAS KRILL Split MCD (Silent Stagnation)

Here we go with the first output of Silentstagnation Records this year. It's the infamous grind punk dudes from Japanische Kampfhoerspiele teaming up with the guys from Poostew that just recently signed to Silentstagnation Records. This limited MCD comes in a slim cardboard digipack like package and looks really neat and is something different from standard digipacks. The title of the split is rather Jaka styled, the translation of "Heirat aus Hass, Scheidung aus Spass" means "marriage because of hate, divorce for fun" and in that vein are also the song titles of Jaka. The songs for the split were mastered by Jacob Bredahl from Hatesphere. Poostew open the split and start their 5 songs with a short sample intro that finishes with a shot and then they begin thrashing through their part. Basically their drummer never stops blasting, Chris is constantly screaming and growling and their guitar player is adding the necessary wall of sound to complete everything. Compared to their last full length "Struggle" I like the new songs much more, somehow I think they've developed their sound a little bit more. These new songs also are much more brutal and aggressive and I have to say I really like what they're doing here. Jaka are offering their crazy mixture of metal riffs, sung and growled German lyrics and Chris Kather's heavy drumming, with their typical chaotic breaks, some thrown in samples like e.g. an alarm clock and stuff like that. Their song writing is really mature and even though it's loads of breaks and interludes the songs are very well written. Jaka are

also releasing a split 7" on Relapse this summer. But also Poostew are going to release their full length this summer with Silentstagnation so luckily there's gonna be more of each band this year. (LB)

### M as in MONEY

#### MOKSHA 'Supersilver Haze' CD (Underhill)

I know one of the first releases of this band. Now I have fresh release from Moksha. Music has changed a lot. I remember that they were playing a bit like Zao and now?? Sludge rock...one of the best I heard in last few months! I was just knockdown with this CD. This band did something great. I have not heard band from HC scene started playing sludge. Tracks are full of aggression, raw as hell, brutal, vocals are also in this mood. I can feel some Crowbar, Entombed influences here but it is more rock touch. This record is heavy as fuck and at the same time dirty! There is even a cover here from Janis Joplin "Move Over" and that shows there inspirations hehe. And they are inspired probably by all genres of heavy music. Very, very good CD. I still can't get myself together after listening to "Supersilver Haze". And additionally we have some killer graphics here. Guyz from Underhill Records take care about clients. Keep it up! (Eddie)

#### MORDA 'Azerion' (Eye Spy Eye)

Their previous release called "86" was released by Genet Records and was absolutely smash hit! Something new and fresh on HC scene! Lots of metal influences but still with hardcore soul! New CD brings us some changes. I don't know if it's better or not. Probably for some it will be better and for others for worst. Guyz added to their compositions lots of melodies, riffs are more metal and sometimes I can feel some Iron Maiden influences (but I love this band so it's OK!). Of course Morda couldn't forget about mosh parts. The vocalist improved his skills a lot. I like his screaming vox they are very readable and brutal in the same time. Guest appearance was made by Marcus from HSB. This CD contains more metalcore stuff and it just blows away all listeners. Lyrics are personal, dark. Just like graphics on the cover! Keep up Morda spirit alive! (Eddie)

### N as in NEED

#### NEAERA 'Let The Tempest Come' CD (Metal Blade)

Neaera attacks us with new material. I remember their debut album recorded also for Metal Blade. These Germans play metalcore like true veterans but they just have 2 CD's in their discography! Wow! What I want to hear from metalcore band I can found on this CD. Heavy, metal riffs, energy, power, powerful screams of vocalist. It can be compared a little to In Flames or At The Gates mixed with The Haunted. Great riffs, solos which reminds me of Iron Maiden and I do not exaggerate. Timber of the frontman is scream mixed with growling and I like it very much, sounds very good! For fans of Swedish melodies... If guys will continue to develop so fast with the next CD they will for sure record a masterpiece! (Eddie)

#### NO HEAVEN AWAITS US 'Irony Of Pure Hatred' (LifeLine)

This is the 1<sup>st</sup> CD released by Polish new label called LifeLine Records. And I have to admit that I am

impressed by quality of this CD. Everything is on very high level. CD is packed in digipack and every small detail looks awesome! Nice work! I said that it is 1<sup>st</sup> one but not last, on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March Lifeline Recs. is going to release next 5 CDs so better keep your eyes wide open on this label! Now if one talks about music it is as good as a layout! 1<sup>st</sup> important thing is the sound of this CD – it is so fuckin powerful that destroys everything! 2<sup>nd</sup> thing is that NHAU improved their music thanks to new guitar player. He adds some crazy guitar riffs and solos here and there and all sounds very interesting. Music is full of mosh parts, and some slow parts which are best for shows! Brutal music, heavy as fuck! I like it. We have 7 tracks and about 24 minutes of aggressive music. Thanks to this CD I can forget about last Shattered Realm release (which did not convince me). "Irony Of Pure Hatred" is a knockout from first sound till the last one. For fans of old Shattered Realm, Full Blown Chaos, Retaliate! Listen or die! (Eddie)

### NO TURNING BACK 'Rise From The Ashes' EP (Not Just Words)

No Turning Back attacks us from first sound with tough, hardcore blast. Voice of the front man is a bit hate one, pissed off on the whole wide world, trying to scream everything that hurts him! I remember that their previous releases were more heavy and slower. I can see that after many lineup changes we have also some changes in the music. This is natural progress from playing brutal music to aggressive old school hardcore. Band is very good at what they are doing now. Tracks are full of slow parts which gives us lots of possibilities for mosh! Vocal has changed a bit. Lyrics are full of hate but on the other hand I can see that they show us where we are as a people in today's world. Layout is also good part of this album! I like it very much! (Eddie)

### R as in RAT

### REMAIN 'As Sharp As Knives' EP (Not Just Words)

When I read about line-up of this band at once I wanted to listen to this shit. We have here ex-members of bands: The Dead Scenestars and Spirit 84. I read somewhere that band was firstly called DeathxChamps but guyz decided to change name for Remain. This time I will start from the cover on which there are some typical old school drawings. We have here eagle, ship, wings, leaves, thunders. It looks good but I will not tattoo something like that on my body. Music is better. Fast, rough, tough hardcore. Kick in the face which knock us down like a Bruce Lee. There are some breakdowns and slow motives and thanks to that music is not monotonous. I love pure energy of this record. Sound is a bit dirty but I like it that way. And the best part is Henk's vocal. Very good record! I can hear some Carry On influences. Next good 7" from Not Just Words Records. (Eddie)

### RINGWORM 'Justice Replaced By Revenge' (Victory)

Wow, Ringworm are back with a blast of an album. Starting off with the title-track "Justice Replaced By Revenge" which is pure annihilation of maddening hardcore the Cleveland way! Many bands that have been active in the 90ies are returning these days and I really didn't expect such a convincing comeback by Cleveland's own Ringworm. The whole album is just

like a punch in your face, straight and merciless they go ahead with brutal hardcore. Most of their songs clock around the 2-minutes-mark and there is just one track which is longer than 3 minutes. The first two songs are just straight attacks but at the third track "Seeing Through These Eyes" they added a fast guitar solo as well as a few breakdowns. Unfortunately this sometimes disturbs me, of course it's a good album but the guitar solos are just a needless interruption of their brutal hardcore. With the fifth song "Whiskey Drunk" they even added an instrumental featuring acoustic guitars and melodic guitar riffing in the back. The follower "God Eat God" is even heavier than all previous songs and offers a moshing mid-tempo bulldozer sound. On "Ghosts Of The Past" they step on the accelerator again but they also added some high speed guitar solos which is just a matter of taste. I guess a lot of people love Ringworm because of doing this but I think they should reduce this a little bit. Other notable tracks are "Devil's Kiss" which is a speedful thrash/speed metal fueled song, "Death Is Not An Option" which is another thrashing song with a bigger hardcore approach and chugga chugga pieces. The last track of the album "Life After The End Of The World" contains also the best first minute, just straight hardcore, without any gimmicks, just refined through HF's angry shouts, unfortunately they slow down after one minute but the start is pure anger. The record comes with artwork by Converge's Jake Bannon. (Marcel)

### RITUAL 'One Foot In The Grave' (Drastic Actions)

Ritual are a young band from the Ruhrpott area in Germany and deliver here 4 songs that show the talent and the passion of these 4 young dudes. Rarely did I check out a young band these days and feel immediately amazed. Even though some people claim they might be influenced by Unbroken especially because of their name, I can assure they aren't a bad Unbroken clone, no they do something really unique. The 7" was recorded in one day and the sound to me fits perfectly with the music. Julian their singer has this really pissed off voice which gets amplified through slight distortion and gives this a harsh touch. The sound is not too polished and not overproduced but still really powerful. So I say how it is I really like that record and luckily Ritual are already preparing songs for their upcoming full length which will be released some when this summer, so you don't have to wait a long time for more good stuff. Their music is not really oldschool, it's melodic without being slow and has a lot of groove parts which makes you move. "The Escape" which is also the song you can listen to on their myspace page for sure defines the attitude of the band, the escape from the routine of their lives by going on stage and shredding for 20 minutes. This ritual also gave them their name. Yes I'm really looking forward to hear more of them and to me they're one of the most promising young bands here in Germany. Check them out. (LB)

### S as in SORROW

### SHORTAGE 'BLACKOUT' CD (Beniihana)

Here's the next Berlin band based band. Shortage are taking the same direction as Final Prayer with their new release "Blackout". After their last CD on Circulation Records, Bjoern from Beniihana Records

released this one. The growls of Flo on the vocals are really aggressive and the band has definitely become much faster on this release than they were before. "Blackout" is an enhanced CD and features a video clip of "Control" taken from their last record "Control 1.0". Shortage make heavy use of double bass but as I said they're a lot faster, no more mid tempo, they're only slow for mosh parts and intro parts. I'm not the biggest fan of tough guy stuff and there are only a few releases that are really good for me personally and to which I can listen on a regular basis. Somehow "Blackout" didn't strike that match for me, but this record is definitely not bad, the production is tight and thick, but maybe it's the vocals that are not appealing to me. But I think everyone who's more into that kind of music will listen to "Blackout" with pure joy and fun and will for sure get what he or she wants. If you're not so much into tough guy stuff it's better to leave it otherwise go ahead and get your copy. (LB)

### STRUGGLE AGAINST 'Better Together' Demo CD(DIY)

Struggle Against is a young band from Denmark. They play powerful old school youth crew hardcore. There are 7 songs here on the demo (1<sup>st</sup> one is short intro so there are just 6 tracks). Music can be compared to legends of youth crew like Youth Of Today and Floopunch. Well played music. It's hard to create something new within this genre but some band play it good and some do it badly. Struggle Against is one of those which do it the good way. Positive vibrations flow straight from their music! Check out the band @ [www.myspace.com/struggleagainst](http://www.myspace.com/struggleagainst) (Eddie)

### SUNRISE 'Cursed Not Alone' CD (Lifeline)

Sunrise called it quits some time ago but before the band will play their last show ever (23<sup>rd</sup> April 2006) we can but their new "old" CD. OR should I write CDS?? "Cursed Not Alone" includes 2 first full lengths from these vegan mega monsters. I'm talkin' about the "Generation Of Sleepwalkers" and their debut CD for Sober Mind Records "Child Of Eternity". "Generation..." was released by Polish label called Sanctuary Records and I think it was sold out some time ago. I can hear some Carcass inspiration in this music but everybody will hear something else. "Child..." is not just change of label but also the style. Sunrise gave us some more Swedish melodies, lots of tempos changes. These two CDS give us beginnings of this band. In the booklet one can find lyrics and some statement from the band. Layout done very well, CD is released in digipack! As an additional bonus there are 3 videos: "Born Free, Die Free" and trailer to the "Traces To Nowhere" CD in English and Polish. 2 CDS of legendary Polish vegan straight edge machine on one! (Eddie)

### T as in TARGET

### THE END OF 6000 YEARS vs EMBRACE THE END Split CD (Still Life)

This split was released lately by Still Life Records from Italy. Fra sent it to me sometime ago and I decided to put it in the zine! I will start from TEOSTY side. Band comes from Italy. In line-up we have some ex-members of hordes like: Reprisal, Memories Of Apocalypse, Xkill for loveX, Xas humanity fadesX. Those 3 tracks which are on split were recorded in April 2005 as their demo. They were mastered once again. The band plays melodic/Swedish metal, death

### HEAT

metal with some hardcore elements. I can hear lots of XdeadlockX in it... Maybe because of similar vocalist timbre? I like some good riffs, some fast tempos and brutal breakdowns. Second band is Embrace The End and comes from USA. In the line-up we have some guys from bands like: First Blood and Killing The Dream. Music is different from what they play in those bands. It is more metal influenced. And I think their compositions are better than TEOSTY. Tempos are more diversified and thanks to it all songs don't seem the same one old song. Lots of blast, hardcore breakdowns. Two vocalists who changes parts in this game. 2 from their 3 tracks were not released the third one was released on their new full length "Counting Hallways To The Left". Good portion of metalcore! (Eddie)

#### THE IDORU 'Hopeless Illusions' EP (Deadbutcher)

The Idoru is a rock band from Hungary. Ex-members of Newborn play in this band. „Hopeless Illusions“ is theirs brand new baby and it was released by Slovakian label called DeadButcher Records. What can I say about the music? I think it is less hardcore and more melody and rock sound on this EP. And it all sound just awesome! I like the melodies that flow from guitars to my ears, I like how bass is working, I appreciate drummer and nice voice of the front man. This music is full of rock soul, if you like melodies you have to listen to this album. This is an order! And „Hopeless Illusions“ is just pre taste of what we get on the next LP (I can't wait for full length!). Cover of the CD is cool, I think this their best one! Additionally on this EP one can find some multimedia bonus: video to track called „Lack Of Credibility“, remix of one of the tracks from „Hopeless Illusions“ and 2 tracks from The Idoru 1<sup>st</sup> EP released only in Japan! This is section is a good part of the CD. I think that The Idoru is one of those bands that attacks our senses in very subtle way. Good EP from great band! (Eddie)

#### THE OCEAN 'Aeolian' (Metal Blade)

I really didn't have any expectations for The Ocean's new album just because I never listened to the band, of course often heard a lot of gossip but the band just haven't drawn my attention. Well this changed when Metal Blade send me the band's label debut and third full length album. Without any prejudices I'm able to enjoy this blasting mixture of math rhythms and heavy outbursts. I'm referring to some big names of the genre, The Ocean keep it up with Converge, Botch or Coalesce, every highlight of these bands put together and mixed very well. The opener "The City In The Sea" is true heavy destruction combined with tempo changes and staccato rhythms but with all the heaviness you need through moshing guitar riffs. Clocking over the 7-minute-mark its a true statement of epic heaviness! The follower "Dead Serious & Highly Professional" is the direct opposite and a 1 1/2 minutes long smasher which part-wise remind me of Converge, brutal and hectic hardcore paired with high-pitches shrieks. The end and the middle of the song sounds like hard rock on speed. With "Austerity" we already come to the longest song of the whole album clocking just under 10 minutes and an infernal mixture of mathcore rhythms, sudden tempo changes, mean staccato guitar riffs as well as long-termed harmonies but they always offer harsh vocals. With "Killing The Flies" they continue with their brutal mathcore refined with playfully guitars, at the middle of the song their drummer also offers a furious double-bass attack! What I really like

about The Ocean's album beside all the math rhythms and hectic sounds it's generally not hard to get into the album as a whole because they over and over add brutal mosh pieces which add the right portion of continuity. Also the vocal variation goes well together with their variation of music styles, for example "Une Saison En Enfer" features deep growls and rough shouts which fit to the changing between raging hardcore and brutal metallic outbursts. I can't identify all of the vocals but at "Queen Of The Food-Chain" definitely Sean Ingram (Coalesce) spits out his rough shouts whereat The Ocean offer a fast-paced mathcore attack with brutal rhythms. One last track I have to mention, because it belongs to one of my favorites is "One With The Ocean" which is a brutal straight smasher of head-shaking hardcore refined with some edgecutting guitar riffs. Just brutal, like the whole album! I really didn't expect such a great album from The Ocean, recommendable to every fan of heavy music! (Marcel)

#### THE TANGLED LINE vs DICK CHENEY Split CD (Refuse Records)

This split was released in cooperation between Refuse Records from Poland and Thrashbastard Records from Germany. First thing that one notices is cover... It's crazy, colorful graphics on which we have two faces. One guy gives other some hits in the head. Totally great! Now let's get to the music. The Tangled Lines is one well-known bands in Germany. What surprised me is the female vocalist who is just great. She can scream fast parts and also she can sing some clean parts. Music is fast old school hardcore with strong melody influence. Just great! They have 4 tracks here and one of them is Gorilla Biscuits cover. Second band is called Dick Cheney and comes from legendary Umeå (Sweden). And they do play also hardcore but with some early influences. I can hear some hardcore bands from the 80-ties in their music. I like especially all their catchy moods in songs! It's just unbelievable that this is their debut release. Good music, good artwork. (Eddie)

#### TURN THE SCREW 'S/T' EP (Not Just Words)

This band gives us very energetic kick in the ass. If one talks about music I think they are somewhere between Mental and Stop And Think. Fast music, dirty sound, screaming vocals. They are from Belgium and I could compare them a bit to Dead Stop. I think that young guys are playing in this band and I am afraid (in a positive sense) what they will show on next CDs. Cover was designed by a girl called Sophie, drawings are funny and they go with music perfect! Lyrics are about many different issues: backstabbers, lost of trust, choosing your own path,. In some way one can call them personal lyrics! This is great 7" and if you want to listen to some energetic old styled hardcore try Turn The Screw! (Eddie)

#### U as in UNDERSTANDING

#### UNDERSIEGE 'Days Of Dying Moments' (LetItBurn)

Wow, I'm impressed. This record is an angry bastard. I have to admit I was never that much into Under Siege but the record they deliver here has changed my mind. Yes it may be metallic hardcore but it's angry and Henning's voice makes the music even more aggressive. Among the flood of metalcore releases it's hard to become aware of the really good releases, but luckily I got a hold of it. You may get a lot of slow mosh parts but Under Siege never forget to step on the accelerator

again. No boring metal just pure aggression without being a stupid tough guy record. The record starts off with an atmospheric instrumental intro that builds up tension for the next song "Nightmare Engineer". This song begins with a rather classical metallic tapping riff to go over in a fast part with as Germans would say "uffta" beat followed by a slow moshing passage. The sixth song "Bloodred Ink, Crimson Paper" features a guest appearance of Johannes from Destiny on additional vocals. All elements may be heard before at some points but I think Under Siege did really good at mixing all those parts together and adding Henning's aggressive vocals. The production is top notch, thick and tight but still a bit raw and remains still aggressive at the same time, because many metal bands strive for this overproduced, slick and clean sound that basically erases all energy and makes them almost pop like. So this is definitely not the case. The twelve songs consist of seven new songs and the five songs from the sold out split with A Traitor Like Judas, that was released in 2004. What you get here is not the reinvention of the wheel but a rock solid, honest record of a band that when all bands tend to call them metal still sticks to their hardcore roots. (LB)

#### W as in WIN

#### WHEN TIGERS FIGHT 'S/T' (Surprise Attack)

While I'm actually waiting for When Tigers Fight's debut full length which seems to take forever I recognized that we actually don't have a review of this incredible band up on our web site. So I just sat down and try to give you an idea of the inimitability of this band. This 7" was released by Surprise Attack Records already mid 2005 while Indecision took over the CD release. When Tigers Fight features former The Promise members with Mike McTernan (Damnation A.D.) on vocals which is the greatest combination since Brian and Ken... These five songs clocking under 10 minutes are just a merciless punch in your face although I needed some time to get into it (right Dominik?). Well, the EP opens with an old styled hardcore attack called "Fuck Tonite" with a mosh appeal but through Mike's distinctive voice the music gets its very own sound. Without any time to breathe in they increased the speed even more at the start of "Forsaken". But after 30 seconds they slow down with a hammering rhythm attack and grooving guitar riffing. I have to confess that all of these song blow me away every time I listen to them but "I'm Sorry" is definitely a special one with its honest lyrics and the grooving heaviness. They don't fully slow down but the song always changes between a mid-tempo hammer and a few speed up parts. At the follower "String Up" they fully step on the accelerator again with brutal hardcore and just short breakdowns. I'm also having the feeling When Tigers Fight's guitar riffing is way dirtier normally old styled hardcore bands use! And after this 1:22 minute long smasher we come probably to the best hardcore song which has been written in 2005, music-wise and lyric-wise. "Dernier Cri" is just a big "fuck up" to all the trendy kids who think they live hardcore just because they wear the same clothes like the others but turn their back on hardcore as soon as they've "grown up". So I'm ending this review with quoting Mike McTernan: "I've seen you come and go, Now you're back again, New name new style, But still the same (...) People Like You Just Come and Go (...) How can you claim to dedicate, your life to something that's just a trend". (Marcel)

# FINAL PRAYER

**Hi! guyz pls introduce yourselves**

**Felix:** My name is Felix, I play bass and do all the bookings for FP. Besides that I sometimes set up HC-shows in Berlin. Before FP I played bass in Disrespect and Battle Royale. Battle Royale are still around, so check them out: [www.battle-royale.de](http://www.battle-royale.de). I also did some fanzines in the late nineties. In my „normal“ life I attend a Ph.D. in International Relations.

**Flo:** Hi, my name is Florian, I play guitars and do all the design, merch and internet stuff. Before FP I played in a band called Lifeforce. Beside Felix and me, there's Mac who also plays guitar, Stephan who's shouting and our drummer Pascal who's also playing for Shortage.

**Final Prayer; that name is somehow connected to Hatebreed's lyric Final Prayer for the human race?**

**If not let me know why you decided to call a band like that.**

**Felix:** We had some songs ready, wanted to play live and needed a name. So we made a list of about 8 names that sounded cool to us, voted democratically, and Final Prayer got the most votes. That was it. No real connection to the Hatebreed song though.

**Flo:** The idea for Final Prayer came indirectly from Ben from Day of contempt, who's a friend of Felix. He's got it tattooed on his hands. He stayed at our home, that's where I saw it first and I really liked it.

**You guyz were playing in some bands previously. From all those names I know Disrespect the best. Can you write why they have disappeared?**

**Felix:** Disrespect split up in 2001 for several reasons like members not getting along any more, differences about band-politics, lack of motivation etc. It was a great time that I'll never forget, but I would never re-start that band again, coz everybody except me (sounds egoistic but it's true) sold out HC by now.

**You have started the band back in 2003 and at the beginning you were playing without a vocalist.**

**What was the most important for You in finding a vocalist? His voice or rather you needed somebody who was pulling the hardest and meanest moves?**

**Felix:** Haha, you read the funny lines about finding a guy for the vocals who's doing feet-first-dives at

Emo-shows in our bio. That obviously wasn't the main reason to get Stefan into the band, although if he'd do a feet first dive at a Jimmy Eat World gig I'd be stoked, but getting along with him well personally as well as musically. He puts some effort into his singing and he's an easy going guy as well – both abilities that are required if you wanna play in a band.

**Flo:** We were looking for a guy who was really into hardcore and who knows what to do on stage at a hardcore show. That was for us as important as his voice. Stephan fitted perfectly into that, although his voice needed some time until it sounded as harsh as now. And please don't take things to serious. As some may have remarked, we always try to play with some of the prejudices people have about hardcore in general.

**You are playing rather not popular music these days. I think that Germany is better known from its metalcore bands. Why do You think is that? Why there are so many metalcore bands in Germany?**

**Felix:** Good question. To be honest: I don't know. Sometimes it seems to me that HC kind of died around Berlin in the late nineties. Not the scene, but real HC-music. No Slayer or At the Gates-rip off bands. Don't get me wrong, I'm not saying these bands have no HC-attitude or anything, but I'm solely talking about this energetic, simple form of music I love so much since about 15 years now. All these metalcore bands never ever manage to sent shivers down my spine, like it does happen when 50 kids sing along to a HC-band that actually has sing-a-longs, pile-ups, stage dives etc. HC is the best, no-one can beat that. If it wasn't for bands like Cro-Mags, Bad Brains, Agnostic Front, Minor Threat etc., all this would never be there. It's weird to me that even people my age (I'm 28 years old) sometimes never ever checked the bands out that

started it all. That's like listening to Reggae and not knowing Bob Marley...

But back to your question: I guess HC became kind of „uncool“ to a lot of kids, that rather wanted to do bands in order to have videos, full-coloured ads etc. And people support that coz it's easier to pick up the newest Killswitch Engage in your chain-store than buy

7"s of bands you never heard of at a distro at a show. HC kind of lost its core, and that makes me sad. But whatever, there's still a lot of bands that play good music, even if it's metalcore and that are true. Don't misinterpret me, I have nothing against metalcore – you should just know where the roots are.

**The songs on your split CD with Crisis Never Ends are fuckin great! Let me know where from do you have inspiration to write those songs and who is the main song writer?**

**Felix:** I think I'm writing hardly any of the riffs, I sometimes write some breaks or bridges. Most of the shit is done by Mac, Flo and Pascal. But everybody can come up with good riffs, there is no main songwriter in this band.

**Flo:** When we started the band we wanted to do real pissed off music, without any time to relax, just to the point and with less metal as possible (which was really hard, because most of us love metal). It should be live music influenced by all the hardcore shows we've seen yet.

**And you have recorded demo recently. And I think that it's slower and more brutal. And I think that vocals are more brutal now. Where this change comes from? Can we call it natural progress?**

**Felix:** Really, I don't think it's slower at all. On the contrary I think it's way more HC and less metal. We added more fast parts and kept song-structures more catchy I think. The vocals sound a bit more harsh, coz Stefan worked a lot on his vocals throughout the last 6 months.

**Flo:** In my opinion the main difference is on the one hand of cause Stephens voice, on the other hand the improved song writing. Each song comes about now more as a piece and not as a accumulation of riffs.

**Have you already found a new label? Cause I understand that you recorded this demo for promo use only, right?**

**Flo:** Yep, we'll have some meetings in the next weeks with different labels about a possible release and then we'll decide where to release our full length. Nothing is for sure yet.



I have read your profiles on your web site and pls tell me what is going with Sly? And why Sly is better than Arnold Schwarzenegger and Dolph Lundgren?

**Felix:** Sly rulez, coz he's just so unbelievable stupid and ignorant, that this even beats Arnie and Dolph, haha. Rambo III is just killer, such a good portrait of world politics, haha.

**Flo:** Even though Dolph doesn't play in the same league with Sly and Arnie.

And there was one more interesting thing.. I mean the favourite Metallica song. Why this band?

**Felix:** Because everyone of us got into this band right when we got into listening to „hard“ music. They did some amazing records, that influenced a shitload of HC-bands. Plus they cover the Misfits, haha.

**Flo:** We grew up with them and they were the best. I think most of us listened to Metallica a long time before hardcore. I mean it's some kind of ideological question. Either Metallica, Maiden or Slayer. But for us the answer was clear.

I read that Flo is taking care of FP designs. Do you want to have complete control over FP stuff?

**Flo:** We try to keep as much control over FP as time allows. Because doing everything by yourself takes a lot of time. It's not just the designs it's everything. By doing so, we get a deeper relation towards the band. Everybody is more involved in it. But we really got many people who helped us on our way. Without them it wouldn't have worked out.

**Felix:** Yes, complete control makes things so much easier to get along with. There's a saying in Germany: „If you want something done right, do it yourself“. That's what we do right now. Makes it easier to get what we want without relying on too many people and therefore being able to keep deadlines, schedules etc. better. Honestly Flo sometimes gets some help by Rykert, who's doing some amazing designing. If interested in his work, drop him a mail: cyco-r@web.de

Why Everyman is my enemy?

**Felix:** Because the everyman, the guy who just works, watches TV and sleeps, who gives a shit about everything else than his little world, is the antidote of what HC should be about. I guess we all strive

for something more in life than making a „career“, a house, a car and die after 40 years of working. That's no what's making people happy. That's why we do this band, go out, play live and meet new people, broaden our horizon etc.

I have read your lyrics and I have to say you that I'm feeling like I got nailed with hammer; they kick ass. Why are they so cruel? So sad and tough in one time?

**Felix:** Hmm, since I wrote all the lyrics on the MCD... I want them to be in your face, coz I don't think I'm good in writing very vague and broad lyrics. I'd rather have them come across with a certain message direct and in your face. No songs about dungeons and dragons or any shit like that. Reality should slap you in the face reading the lyrics, if that happens I got my job done. In addition to that I wouldn't consider them very sad or cruel, more like angry and pissed off about the world we're living in.

**Flo:** We always wanted to have pissed off lyrics with a pissed off voice. That's what hardcore means to us and that's what I miss a lot at many bands in these days. They got nothing to say at all. I don't care if it's political, personal or whatever. Just have any kind of message, have something to say.

Is the track loyal to none telling about specified person or is it rather general statement?

**Felix:** No, it's basically about being only loyal to yourself, being true to your own ideals, values and norms. Not letting other people plan your life. And it's against all these people who always follow the next trend, change their ideals with the seasons and their friends, too.

And what are the lyrics about on your demo 2k5?

**Felix:** „The anthem“ is about the state of HC today, where a lot of people seem to have lost hope and courage for some ideals and politics that HC for me is all about. „Best of times“ is about people who live in the past, always complaining about the state of HC today, instead of standing up and trying to make a change. „First world, down first“ is about the fact, that if the rich and wealthy nations like the USA or the EU-members continue to exploit this world the way they've done for the last decades, this may as well

cause the end of planet earth very soon: ecologically as well as politically. „No place to turn“ is about mass-media manipulating our opinions and views and daily basis, especially when it comes to reporting about things like the war in Iraq. Biased opinions and views, resulting out of the fact that most journalists were embedded with the US-troops (which contradicts getting an „objective“ overview of the situation on the ground), were force fed to all of us as „the truth“ or the „reality“, while hardly ever showing the reality of over a 100,000 civilians dying on the Iraqi side. That's what the chorus says: „another war, another lie“.

Can you write down some interesting band names from your neighbourhood?

**Felix:** Check out my old band Battle Royale, check out Pascal's other band Shortage. Besides that there is a couple other bands from Berlin: Ivan Drago. Mönster, Totally Sunburned and Alithia. They all have records out. Besides that check Teamkiller, they rule. Check out Something Inside. Check out Crisis Never Ends.

When you are going to record some new stuff and release it?

**Flo:** Hopefully record it in November and release it in January or February. We'll see... First we'll do a small tour with Teamkiller in September and prepare for studio after.

What is the most important issue for You as a band and personally?

**Felix:** With the band: just writing good HC-music and play lots of shows everywhere. Meet nice people. For me personally: stay true to myself, loyal to my friends, never lose sight, keep a positive attitude, even if sometimes that seems hard.

I saw you on the show with Hatebreed and Merauder. You played fuckin good show. Are the live shows important for You?

**Flo:** We do the band for playing. It's amazing to play hardcore shows. We don't play this kind of music to stay in our rehearsal room and make good recordings. We do it to go out on stage and share it with the kids.

**Felix:** HC is all about playing live. If you see a band play and they're fake, you will know it from the first chord. Plus there's nothing better than a big moshpit, pile-ups, stage dives etc. I love the energy of HC-shows, so it's important to me that we keep that energy on stage.

Last wordz of wisdom..

**Flo:** Thanks so much for the interview and all the support. It's greatly appreciated. Check [www.finalprayer.de](http://www.finalprayer.de) or more infos, gigs etc. We'd love to play Poland in march or April 2006, so if anybody is interested to get us a show, drop us a mail.

This interview was made some time ago and I just wanted to add some update to it. Final Prayer have signed with Let It Burn Records to release their new album. CD entitled "Right Here, Right Now" will be released on April 1st 2006. The vinyl version of this CD will be released by I.C. Recordings. For more news and updates about FP please go to:

[www.finalprayer.de](http://www.finalprayer.de)



# STRUGGLE AGAINST

Hi! First of all please introduce yourself and rest of the band members to all the readers! My name is xJimmix and I am the singer I also skate. Anders is our Guitarist and are also really into becoming a ninja. Lasse plays Drums and Mads our original Bass player just left the band last month. So now we got a new and amazing bass-player Henrik helping us out. Also Søren the bass player from metal-core act AS WE FIGHT is a good friend of ours and are also willing to help us out if we need it!

**Struggle Against is not so well known band in Europe so please write some facts from SA history, where are you from, when the band was started, etc.**

We started in 1999. 2 years after I had moved to Odense and still no Hardcore shows! I decided that I better start my own HC band, instead of bitching about that nothing ever happened! Lasse (drums) & Mads (bass) played in a Ska-punk band that were about to break up. They had both recently discovered bands like SOIA, 59 Times The Pain and wanted to go in that direction. And Anders (guitar) really wanted to play HC and left the Skatpunk band he played in shortly after we met. So we had our first rehearsal in April 1999. And everything just clicked right there, I tell you we were all amazed we didn't really knew each other, never hung out or anything! Within 30 minutes we had written our first song: perished. There was truly an amazing feeling in the air.. People notice that there is always a special atmosphere between us when we play. Something we just can't describe! We just like become as one!

**Your history is quite strange because your band hooked up in 1999 and later you decided to call it quit. And then in 2004 you have started the band again. What has happened that you decided on these strange changes?**

I know what you mean! It has been a strange journey so far. The truth is we never really wanted to quit, but college stays in different cities and people working night jobs tore us apart haha. When we played our last show in 99. Things had really started to happen for us and it was an amazing night, we had no idea that it would be 7 years before we would share a stage again. The following years I tried a couple of times to put the band back together, but we all seemed to be caught up in something else every time.

Then in Dec. 04. Anders (guitar) contacted the rest of us and said he had some ideas for a couple of HC songs he had been working on, and if we would be interested in helping him to record them?

None of us seemed to be doing anything really, so we met up in Jan 05. Expecting just a fun recording session. But when we came back together in that same rehearsal space where we first played back in 99. The magic came back instantly! Like an old girlfriend you never really fell out of love with. I know that we all missed the good times and the energy, and we played the old songs and had a blast.

After the session we sat down with smiles on our faces, and I said: Guys! Why don't we take this opportunity to finish what we started back then, the spirit is clearly here let's record these new songs as the first Struggle Against Demo and let's get back on track!

Needless to say everyone agreed!

**At your my space web site there are some tracks recorded from "2k5 demo". Do you think they are good representation of the band?**

Well we recorded those songs just a couple of days after getting back together. But we are really proud of them, and they do show the more mid-tempo sort of HC we also like to do. It's still youth crew just not as fast as our new songs. People always comment on how there is a lot of melody to our songs and I think it's apparent on these songs. And of course we had to put "Perished" the first song we ever wrote together on it..

**And now you have almost finished your new CD.. Can you write something about it? What kind of music we can find there, how many tracks, etc.?**

Yeah the new CD is gonna knock people over! This is fast powerful energetic and melodic Youth Crew the way we do it with a little New York influence! There's gonna be 6 songs on it, and a really cool Arnold Schwarzenegger intro haha. And with a great sound quality for a demo..

The CD is gonna be called: BETTER TOGETHER. And its a comment on how divided the scene will be if people don't educate themselves on what HC is all about which is : UNITY! and supporting each other. I got the title from amazon.com where if you wanna buy let's say a: SOIA CD it will recommend you an Agnostic Front CD with a little discount, and call it better together! It also shows that we got humor in the band, even thou we are serious about our music.

**I read also that you will record some stuff for two compilations. Let us know for who, when and**

**where it will be available and why did you decide to put your tracks on those compilations?**

OK. The first Comp is from STRAIGHT UP REC from Japan. It's a really bold project including HC band from all over Asia, and the label owner asked me to find some EU bands. I wanted to get some of the in my opinion best new EU old school bands on it. Especially Poland has surprised me lately, I asked bands like LAST ITEM, EYE FOR AN EYE, REGRESS. And they all agreed I wish the best for these bands and like us they can definitely use the exposure. Also THE TANGLED LINES from Germany is on it. Each band is gonna contribute with 2 songs. But since so many bands are gonna be on it and so many different countries are involved it's gonna take some time before its finished. Check our myspace profile for updates on both comps. I'll post it as soon as they are ready.

The 2nd Compilation is a YOUTH OF TODAY tribute from EMBRACE RECORDS (Malaysia)

We are gonna record SLOW DOWN! Again bands from both Asia and EU contribute THE TANGLED LINES and POINTING FINGER, to name a few its gonna be out in a couple of months.

I can't even describe to you how honored we are to be asked to be on this compilation. To pay tribute to a band that has meant so much for the type of HC we play, its unbelievable really! The reason for putting our tracks out there is communication. A short while ago I had no idea that Poland or Asia had so cool Old School scenes, So to get to know people from all over the world who feels the same way about HC as we do is overwhelming to think of. Now I know that almost every country has a diehard old school scene (except DK haha) and we will do everything we can to go and play with these bands and meet people who are into positive Hardcore..

I seriously encourage anyone reading this to contact us, We love to meet new people.

**How important are lyrics for SA and what are they about?**

Lyrics are really important. I always wanna speak my mind and be sincere in what I sing about.

The lyrics on The UNITY Demo (the 4 songs on my space) are about the reason why we play HC (one more time & united again), losing my best friend to drugs (perished) & unsupportive friends (point your finger).

The songs on our new Demo: BETTER TOGETHER are on the positive attitude that SxE brings to my life (pride remains, backbone & changing day), people who use HC as a trendy word to sell CDs (keep it real) and Scene Unity (burn strong & shoulder to shoulder)

**Struggle Against is known as a the only old school band in Denmark. Is that true?**

Yes unfortunately its true hehe! Denmark has many experimenting HC bands but we are the only Youth Crew left alone Old School band. That doesn't mean that people don't appreciate Old School.

When we play in Cph People are going absolutely nuts, but the rest of the country seem poised on Metal-core. That's why we are focusing on going to Sweden and Germany to play..

**You wrote that you sound like: Cause For Alarm, Gorilla Biscuits, Youth Of Today, Warzone, Minor Threat, Slapshot, Floopunch...**

These are one of the best HC bands ever. Which do you think is the most important for you?

I would definitely say Gorilla Biscuits for being the first Youth Crew band I discovered, their words and positive outlook on frustrating issues forever changed my view on how to make fast energetic music that wasn't negative and destructive but empowering. They inspired me in the same way that skateboarding did: a reason not to be self destructive while getting my frustrations out.

2nd choice is Minor Threat: The energy is unbeatable, lyrics to the point raw and crucial. The most important band in HC history. The roots of the scene, both bands give me the same feeling today as when I first heard them back in 1992! Amazing

**What is your opinion about hardcore nowadays, I mean all that fashioncore stuff... Do you think that hardcore still has its spirit?**

I am not just saying this because its the style I have chosen to play. But I feel that the Spirit of HC lives on in Youth Crew. The message of being pissed off by the state of things, but still feeling a hope and connecting with people who feels the same way! If we are talking about the bands like MINOR THREAT & 7 SECONDS. That played crucial roles in defining HC-Punk then yes their spirit is carried on by today's Youth Crew bands. I really don't pay attention to fashion core/Metal-core to me they are irrelevant to how I feel. I didn't get into HC because I wanted to listen to experimental death metal with christian vegan lyrics, or suicide obsessed The Cure look-alikes. When all of those bands have signed to Sony and left the scene for MTV, guess who will still be here?.. KEEP IT REAL!

**What can you say about your local scene? Are there any other bands or other activities that are worth to be mentioned?**

Well... we don't have a scene! We are the only HC band in our town haha! I think the HC scene in Denmark is really diverse and good at the moment, I will recommend that if you are into early 80es DC & L.A. HC-Punk you check out the K-town bands, they are truly amazing. Also check out the: Frederica Hardcore

Festival. It's a 3 day festival with both Big and small names! It's really cheap and a nice atmosphere. A mix of Old School & New School HC and punk bands! If you visit Denmark in the summertime check it out!

**What is important issue in hardcore today? I mean what do you think should be talked about? Unity, racism, sexism, animal rights...?**

I think that issues such as rape, homophobia, questioning of societies standards/norms and religious institutions are rarely touched upon. I think our next record is gonna include some of those things.

**You are straight edge. Does the band is also believing in xxx? Why you decided to become drug free? How does this affect your life?**

We have always had really respectful relationship towards each other concerning that issue. Now when Mads (bass) has left the band, I am the only SxE person in the band! The others totally respect that I have chosen to live my life drug-free, and that it from day one affected the lyrics and message of the band. But then again they are really positive and healthy guys who works out and stuff. SxE shouldn't mean closed mind...

To me SxE means: HOPE! That I'm able to cope with the tough things life throws at me, of course I can get down, but to me it makes a huge difference that I don't automatically think drinking or drugs when something heavy comes down on me. But I look inwards for strength and I believe that everyone is capable of changing for a more positive outlook on life, if they dared to strip themselves of their intoxication masks!

**Anything to add...**

Thank you so much Adam, for giving us this opportunity to reach new people. I'd like to give a shout out to all of the polish bands who keeps the scene alive: Regress, Ania (Eye for an Eye), X's always win, Last item and everyone I forgot!! Also Robert (Refuse Rec) & Pawel (In our hands rec). We hope to get to play in Poland one day, get in touch HC is all about communication..

[www.myspace.com/struggleagainst](http://www.myspace.com/struggleagainst)



**Faust Again** were the second polish band besides **Sunrise** that i heard about. I think in early 2003 around the when their debut "Seizing Our Souls" came out on Circulation, I got ahold of a sampler with one song of them and i really liked this mixture of the aggressive shouts of Marcin and the powerful but yet melodic music of the instruments. Nowadays there's always this bad taste when you talk about Metalcore, because there's so many bands that just try to catch on what other bands did before, but yes **Faust Again** are one of those few outstanding bands that prove everyone wrong. So I thought after their new record "Hope Against Hope" finally saw the light of day in January 2006 that it was time to ask them a few questions.



I know this is just the usual question but still tell us a bit about the band, you don't have to start from the beginning but who is **Faust Again** and what did you do in the years since you started? We are a polish metal/hardcore band. We started in 1999 and since then **Faust Again** has always consisted of those four people: Adrian (bass), Olek (guitar), Dyzio (guitar), Marcin (voice). At the beginning of 2005 Marcin (a.k.a. X) joined us and took care of drumming. So far we've recorded two regular albums on Circulation Records, we've played many shows, made a lot of friends and of course we had fun like hell!

**You have a new drummer now for quite some time. I think he played the first show with you in early 2005. Why did you change the lineup?**

Mariusz was a good drummer and a cool guy but he was way too busy with his studies to play shows even during weekends. No bad blood between us, just a serious decision to find someone who could really commit himself to **Faust Again**. X is a brilliant drummer and definitely a person which fits perfectly into the group.

**My first question is why did it take so long to release your new record "Hope Against Hope"? It should have been out in September and you had already everything recorded and mixed for a long time. So what did take so long?**

That's a good question haha. Well first thing was that we were not ready with artwork. At that time I was much too busy with some personal duties and I didn't fix the whole artwork on time. Second thing was of course label's decision. We were ready much earlier but Circulation Records decided to release album in January. That's basically the reason for the whole mess with release date of "Hope Against Hope".

**You recorded this album in the Rape Of Harmonies studios where Heaven Shall Burn already recorded their albums as well as Narziss, and tons of other bands. Why did you choose that studio considering that you had to travel from Poland to the middle of Germany? What did it make so special for you?**

It was not an easy decision. We were looking very hard to find a decent studio in Poland but somehow we couldn't find anything that in 100% would give us a comfortable feeling. We knew most of the productions from Rape Of Harmonies and also we had this recommendation from our friends that this particular studio is the best option for a band like **Faust Again**. After all I must say we made right decision. The atmosphere during the work was perfect but at the same time Alex and Patrick had this professional approach that we needed and that we were looking for. We are totally satisfied with the results, of course it could have been better but the case is we didn't have more time to work on it. Maybe with the next album we will also make decision to record it in Rape Of Harmonies.

**The title of your new album is "Hope Against Hope". Which hope is against which hope? What do you want to express with that title?**

Marcin - The title has no pejorative meaning. It means that we live in the world full of dreamers, everyone has a dream and a hope that those dreams will come true. The case is that our paths are crossing all the time and either we can open for somebody else and

help him/her or don't give a fuck and do only what's good for ourselves. It's also about the situation when two or more people are hoping for the same thing but somehow they cannot find a common language because of the world that we are living in, full of disbelief, fear and prejudices. This record is about finding a way through all this crap around, about finding the strength in relation with people who have the same believes and hopes.

**Who did the artwork for the new record? Did you have certain ideas considering the design and how were you involved in the creation?**

The guy whose name is Wojtek Blasiak did the whole artwork. He is quite famous artist who created the artwork also for **Venom** (!!!), **Moonspell**, **Panzer X** and some other metal bands from Poland. We choosed him because of his unique style and the fact that he is using more paint and pencil than Photoshop. We wanted this artwork to look more natural and less computer-stylized and I guess we succeed. We were involved only a little bit in the whole concept, giving only some ideas to Wojtek and some hints but I would say that at least 80% of the job was his invention.

**How did you get together with Circulation Records? How satisfied are you with what Johannes is doing for you? Do you think you should get more support?**

I met Johannes on the second edition of the Fluff Fest in Plzen and we stayed in contact. When **Faust Again** recorded "Seizing our souls" I sent him promo CD and he responded with the offer to release it on his label Circulation Records. I think till now Circulation Records was a good place for a band like us. They released our two albums and supported us all the time with some promotion. Now we are looking for a new place and we will see what future brings.



**What about your cooperation with Broken Bones Booking? How did you hook up with them?**

I think Circulation Records hook us up with them. It's a really occasional cooperation between us and they only helped us with two or three shows so I can't tell you more about it. We'll be looking for another booking agency for more permanent cooperation.

**Do you plan to tour with your new record? Besides the small tour in 2004 did you do any longer tours so far?**

Yep! We had some mini tours before, usually it was 5/6 shows, nothing more. We would love to go for a longer touring but for that you need to have a support from label and a booking agency which we don't have at this moment. Also our regular jobs would cause some problems but when the time comes we will start touring more widely. No serious plans for now, just couple of shows here and there. I think we will finally fly to Russia and also play some shows in Croatia and Slovenia. It will happen in April.

**Have you already played in more eastern countries? Like Belarus, Lithuania or Russia? If you did, could you tell a bit about that?**

Not yet, but we are working on it. We already had some offers from those countries but we couldn't fix it with dates but now it seems like we will go there finally. I'm really looking forward to it, especially Russia and Moscow!

**What do you think is different considering the people in the scene in Poland and in Western European countries? And what do you think is the same?**

I think that kids are more or less the same. It's hard to generalize like this but kids are following the same trends, wear the same cloths and dance the same way. Of course you can find nice and smart people on the both sides. For me it doesn't matter that much where we are playing because everywhere we go there is always someone to hang out with.

**I had the impression that the people in Poland were more helping out each other than I experienced it here. That sharing equipment was a rather common thing and that it was not an issue.**

**And I think that's something really positive. Can you tell a bit about that?**

It obviously has to do something with the financial situation of my country. Unfortunately you cannot compare it with all Western European countries because still there's a big difference. Faust Again was fighting really hard for everything what we have and I know what kind of struggle it is for all young Polish bands to even find a place for rehearsals. We came through really absurd situation when we had to plug two guitars and microphone to one 20 years old guitar head. I guess that also made us more understanding for a young bands who want to borrow equipment from us. We did the same before.

**Do you think it's a disadvantage for you that you're living in Poland. I**

**mean in the sense of the location of Poland in Europe. Like that you have to travel quite a few more hours to play somewhere in central Europe?**

Like most things in life it has both sides. I don't regret that I was born in Poland because I truly love this country with all its stupid problems, stupid government and stupid mentality. For some reasons it would be much easier for us to live in Germany, not only when it comes to traveling. I think that German bands get a little bit more support and attention in their country than any other band from outside. It's only my personal feeling so I won't bet it's true for sure.

**Did you also experience prejudices of HC/metal people towards you?**

Hmmm.. yeah, I had some because of my vocals. For people who are still listening only to bands from 80's my vocals are way too brutal. Basically we exist on both scenes - metal and hardcore and we feel good on both of them as long as there are nice people with whom we can talk and hang out.

**What are your views on the results of the elections that took place in September? Has the political situation changed? Because it looks like a really conservative government.**

It's terrible! I'm really scared about the future of this country. It looks like Poland is now divided into those two groups - poor and bad educated people from small towns and villages and second group of middle and high class people from big cities, well educated and informed about what's going on in the world. The problem is that those assholes who are nothing more than stupid, homophobic people that try to introduce their sick values into public and politic life, won their votes from citizens who didn't even understand what the hell it means to have right wing party as a leading team. Recently I heard that the leading party is trying to force something like censorship again to prevent nudity and vulgarity in television. What a bunch of morons! I will fight them with every mean I have!

**What are you doing besides Faust Again? Is anyone of you involved in some other bands or other activities? Do you work or study, what do you do to make a living?**

I used to work till last week when I left my job because it didn't allow me to play in the band, not even to have some decent social life. All of us are pretty much working in some full or part time jobs. Adrian is still studying politics and also working as well. I graduated last year from Academy of Economics, now I have to take only my final, very last exam but I'm too lazy for that or maybe too busy with other things haha. Faust Again is the only band that we are involved in. X used to play in brilliant noise band called Noisesession but they split up unfortunately. They were really really great band!

**As far as I know all of you guys are vegetarians. Do you embrace that lifestyle also in your lyrics or aren't you preachy and outspoken in that regard?**

Yes we are all meat-free people. Adrian have been vegan for quite a long time now. I kinda tried not to preach or anything like that but I just could not keep silence since it affects me so deeply when there is so much unnecessary suffering in the world. I see my role now as a person who can inform others about some facts and decision in of course up to everyone who is listening. I'm not forcing anything but I'm always there if you want to talk with me about this subject and I'm always there to help to organize some benefit show, just anything that can help in this case. We have this one song called "Something About Us" on the new record, and it's strictly about how our everyday decisions are important and how they influence many lives around us. It's about taking responsibility for your acts, like one phrase says "You define yourself by the choices that you make". We also took part in the animal-benefit compilation made by SARC (Southern Animal Rights Coalition) called "Until Every Cage Is Empty" together with other vegetarian/vegan bands (Freya, Undying, Goldfinger, Purification and so on) to help spread the word about unnecessary cruelty and suffering of animals locked in vivisection cages.

Thank you for an interview and support! I had a good time answering your questions! Till the next time!

[www.faustagain.com](http://www.faustagain.com)

[www.myspace.com/faustagain](http://www.myspace.com/faustagain)



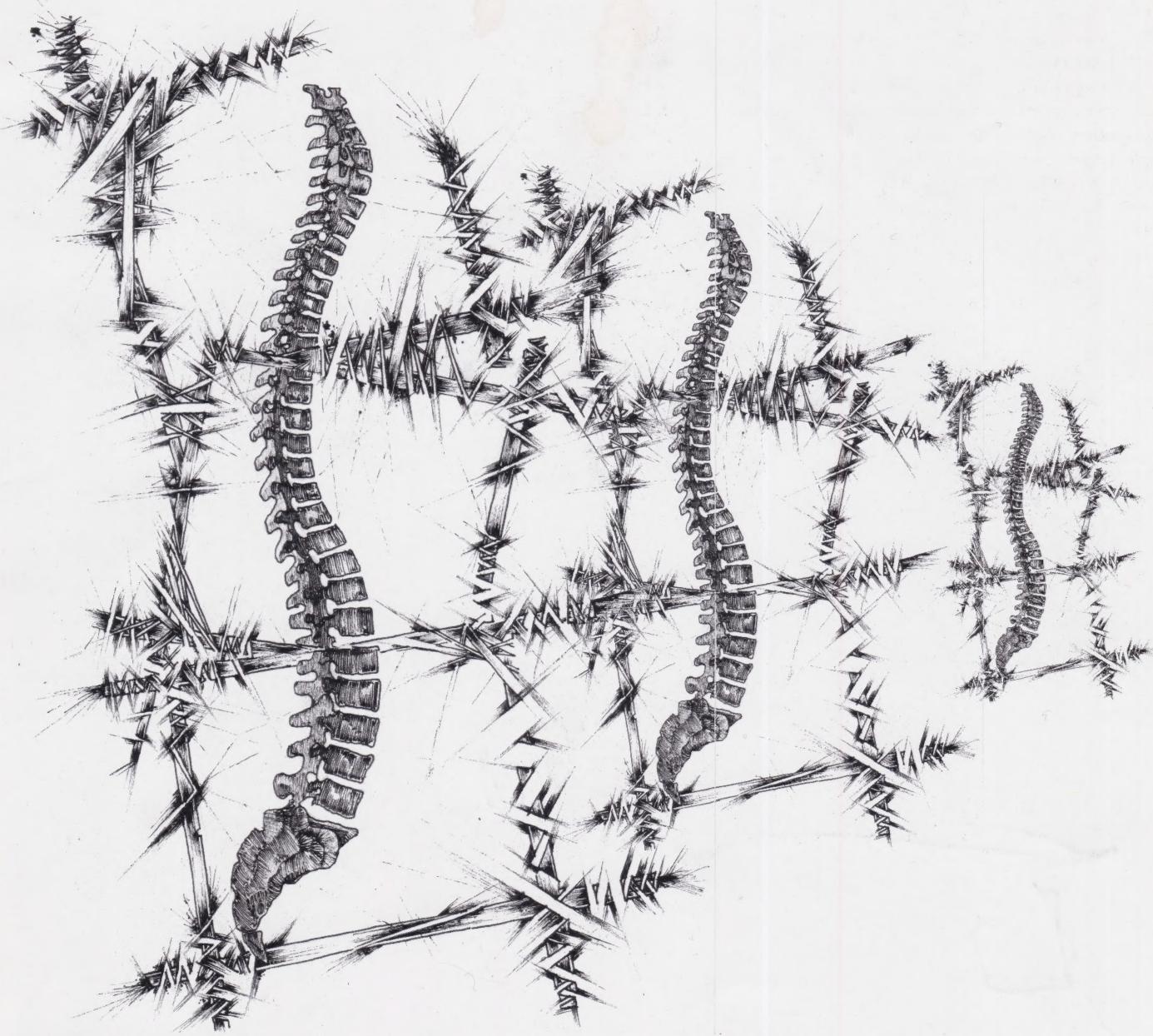
**LB says:**

First and foremost I thank my polish bro Adam for jumping on the train with me and pushing me doing my stuff. My Juli deserves a very big thank you for her love, friendship and continuous support and especially for being the love of my life. Then I want to thank Marcel, my man and boss in Silentstagnation, and his wife Farchonda for being real friends. I also want to say a big thank you to Beata for sharing Adam with me :) I think some more people should be named who made this last half year a really pleasant one: CxLo, HG, Jochen, Marta, Marc, Tomas. Some people deserve a big kick in the ass for being pretentious assholes and being so kind to fuck me over, so thanks go out to them for opening my eyes and bringing me one step further to wisdom. Actually I never thought I would write this shitty sentence but: you know who you are...

Hugs and shoutouts for supporting the zine go out to: Rafal Wechterowicz, Marcel SXS, Chris LIB, Niko Blacktop, Mikita Deadbutcher, Robert Refuse, Storm Of Justice, Not Just Words, Bjoern Beniihana, Jonathan, Chris Pootew, Marcin, Ondra, Philipp and all the other people I was in touch with during the writing process.

Damnation A.D. - Kingdom Of Lost Souls made me strong while I was writing my diploma thesis. So thanks for creating some of the most powerful tunes I've heard in my life.

Contact LB @ [lb@silentstagnation.com](mailto:lb@silentstagnation.com)



**Eddie a.k.a. XadamX says:**

Big thank You and respect goes for: Beata a.k.a. Antalya (for being my Light in the dark & true inspiration!), Parents (for being always there for me!), my German bro LB (for doing this awesome zine with me!) + his lovely girl Julie, Tomass a.k.a Da Sympatico Boy (for being my slave and help with the shitty layout), Dziki (great graphic maker for drawing some crazy stuff for da zine!), XannieX & Piotr a.k.a aunt & uncle, Drzevox, Evelin, Robert Stop, Look & Listen (better check out his great fanzine!), Ch. F. Xavier, Sean (NA hardcore), Chris (Final Expression Zine), Evan, Chris (Agents Of Man), Karl & Rob (Born From Pain), Marcin + Magda & rest of Faust Again crew, Felix & Flo (Final Prayer), Junior (Inhatred), Hans (Liar), Joshua (Life In Your Way), Piek (Morda), Radazz (No Heaven Awaits Us), Mauro & Dan (No More Fear), Andy (Routin Check), B'Hellmouth (Send More Paramedics), XjimmiX (Struggle Against), Tibi (The Idoru), Gio (The Miracle), Pieter (Turn The Screw), Rafal Wechterowicz, Filip (Storm Of Justice), Pakus + Ola, Greg, Sonia, Michu, Hoya The Dog, Marta, Misior, Mroowa + Marta, Pit + Iwona, XmyersX, Andrzej + Asia, Sergi, Pat + Aneta, Stiepan, Lionel Ryski, Karol (Selfmade God Records), Robert Refuse, Ronald (Not Just Words Records), Hella Sick Thrashers, George A. Romero, Lucio Fulci, Dario Argento, Arsenal FC... "And what you wanna do about it...xLcx style, baby. You better fuckin recognize! Yeah!"

And to everybody I forgot to mention! Big fuck you to all you who deserve it!

**This one is dedicated to all VEGAN/VEGETARIAN STRAIGHT EDGE! Still Walkin' With Fire...!!!**

Contact Eddie a.k.a. XadamX @ [struggle\\_zine@hard-core.pl](mailto:struggle_zine@hard-core.pl)



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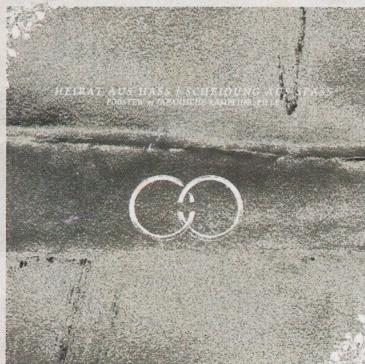
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